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'Inconsistencies' in native language translations uncovered. **PAGE 3**

CUC seeking waiver on green energy mandate. **PAGE 5**

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
If the gubernatorial elections were held today, who of the five who have already expressed their intention to run will you vote for?

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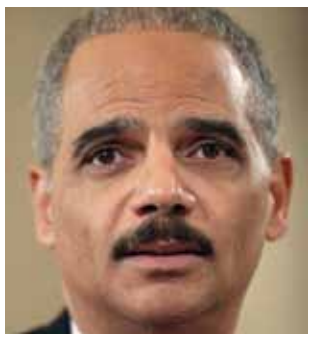
127 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE



Black AG
Eric Holder won Senate confirmation Monday as the nation's first African-American attorney general.

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Bad Buzz
Barbra Streisand remembers the buzz generated before she started filming "Yentl," and it wasn't particularly good.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

All Tinian casino investors to take a hit from federalization

Dynasty exec: Tougher times ahead in 2009

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Placing CNMI immigration under federal control by June 1 will affect the operation of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino and the business strategies of three other investors proposing to build a total of at least $540 million worth of casino resort projects, according to the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

Commission chair Francisco M. Borja told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that it is "unfortunate"

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"If nonresident workers are restricted from working in the CNMI after June 1, 2009, the casino investors will face a huge challenge finding enough skilled and unskilled employees to staff the resort."

—Francisco M. Borja, chairman, Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission

AT THE SCIENCE FAIR HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Lenard Marcial, 8, a second grader at Oleai Elementary School, rests in front of a mural in the Marianas High School gymnasium after the awarding ceremonies for the 2009 Public School System Islandwide Science Fair on Sunday morning.

January car sales plunge by 46.3 pct.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

At least one new vehicle was sold on the islands every single day in January, compared to almost two sold daily during the same month last year.

This is based on the latest data from the Commonwealth Auto Dealers' Association, which showed 36 new vehicles sold in January, a 46.27 percent drop from the 67 units sold last year in the same period.

Matt Deets, CADA president, said yesterday the 46 percent drop in monthly sales shows the many changes that have occurred since early 2008 as a result of an economic downtrend not only in the CNMI but in the U.S. mainland as well.

He, however, pointed out that the 36 new vehicles sold in January were consistent with the

See JANUARY on Page 4

2,701 'failed' voters urged to re-register

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

CNMI citizens who failed to cast their vote during the 2008 midterm elections will receive a "failed to vote" notification from the Commonwealth Election Commission starting today after the agency turned in 2,701 notices yesterday to the government post office.

CEC acting executive director Julita A. Villagomez said these individuals must re-register with the commission if they

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Local

Labor says Siemer 'cleaned up' all pending cases

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Lawyer Deanne Siemer completed in 2008 a two-year project to clean up all pending labor cases that have accumulated at the Department of Labor's administrative hearing office from 1997 through 2007.

With the conclusion of the project, all 4,897 labor cases from 2007 and prior years have been closed, according to Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas and Labor Deputy Secretary Cinta M. Kaipat in a report to the Legislature.

Exceptions to the closed cases were 22 cases from those years remaining on appeal in San Nicolas' office as well as 27 cases remaining in the Commonwealth courts, they said.

Siemer

The two top Labor officials said the Administrative Hearing Office heard in November 2008 the very last 2007 case.

As part of the implementation of the performance benchmarks for Labor investigators and hearing officers who handle labor cases, Kaipat reportedly implemented a weekly tracking system for all cases filed in the current year.

San Nicolas and Kaipat said the tracking spreadsheet is updated every week and shows what cases have come in, whether the case has been mediated, what the status of the investigation is, when the case is scheduled for hearing, whether an administrative order has been issued, and whether an appeal has been filed or the case has been closed.

"This system has resulted in a more orderly processing of 2008 cases with no cases lost in the administrative work between investigators and hearing officers," the two officials said.

Last year, 253 cases were filed at Labor. The Hearing Office reportedly completed 157 of those cases, while 96 cases remained open for investigations, hearings, and opinions to be completed during 2009.

San Nicolas and Kaipat stated that at Labor's Processing Division, Labor Director Barry Hirshbein accomplished the task of reducing over 11,000 pending applications to fewer than 1,000 by July 2008.

"Using the new automation system, we are now running about two to three weeks to get most application processed," the officials added.

CNMI firefighters urged to obtain more EMS training

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A visiting Emergency Medical Services trainer from the University of South Dakota has urged local firefighters to undergo a higher level of EMS training to enable them to save more lives.

David Boyer, a program director for EMS for Children at the University of South Dakota, said the Department of Public Safety's Fire Division personnel have been trained to what is called a basic EMS level.

"From my perspective, I believe that it would be great someday to see them in an advanced level of care where they can provide more care in the field," said Boyer.

Boyer was among three EMS trainers from the U.S. mainland who conducted a weeklong emergency medical technician's basic refresher course for the CNMI's firefighters at the Kagman Community Center last week.

Boyer underscored the importance for the CNMI's firefighters to undergo such advanced training because of remote areas on the island that make it harder to immediately bring patients to the hospital.

"The higher the level of training they have, it's like bringing the hospital to the patients," he said.

The program director said that, from what he and co-trainers have seen, local firefighters would be able to get to a level where they can become paramedics.

With such training, Boyer added, local firefighters will deliver a higher level of care in the field, save more lives, and have better outcomes.

Teenager allegedly punches man, taunts and throws rocks at police

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A teenager allegedly punched a man at a store in Koblerville then taunted and threw rocks at a pursuing police officer early Monday morning.

The suspect, Jaswin Peter, 18, was subsequently arrested by two other responding police officers.

Peter was brought to the Superior Court yesterday on charges of two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon and one count of disturbing the peace.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo ordered that bail be kept at $6,250 cash, as the court had earlier imposed.

Govendo appointed the Public Defender's Office to represent Peter and set the preliminary hearing for Feb. 11 at 9am.

Detective Simon T. Manacop stated in his report that police officers responded to David Store in Koblerville shortly after the Department of Public Safety received a call about a disturbance on Monday at 1:01am.

When the officers arrived at the store, the victim, Zhen Cai, pointed at two male persons who were walking east toward the street. Cai told the officers that one of the two males punched him in the face.

The officers were able to stop one male but the other, later identified as Peter, ran away.

Peter, however, returned and, holding two fist-size rocks, approached the officers. As Peter got close, Sgt. Alfred Celes drew his firearm and ordered the suspect to put down the rocks.

Peter ran away, prompting Police Officer Tarimai Yangetmai to chase him. During the chase, the suspect stopped a couple of yards from the officer.

Officer Yangetmai ordered Peter to place the rocks down, but the suspect instead taunted the officer and egged him to chase him further.

As Yangetmai moved closer, the suspect threw the rocks at him. The officer ducked to avoid the rocks.

Two other responding officers later spotted Peter near Fire Station 4 and arrested him.

Cai told investigators that prior to the attack, he was inside David Store when he heard someone knocking on the window. When Cai opened the door and asked Peter what he wanted, the suspect replied, "What?"

Cai advised Peter to leave the store, but the suspect allegedly punched him on the face.

Cai walked out the store and fought with Peter. The victim then called the police.

It was not clear in the report whether Peter's companion was also arrested.

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'Inconsistencies' in native language translations uncovered–Macaranas

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Inconsistencies in the translation of the native language have prompted the Language Policy Commission to establish a committee that would certify official translators for the Chamorro and Carolinian languages.

Board chair Bill Macaranas said the board is committed to addressing the issue by formulating a unified procedure in translating the vernaculars to English.

Macaranas, who was also former executive director of the Language Policy Commission, said it has been over 20 years that "inconsistencies and misperceptions" were noted in the translation of the native dialects. However, the concerns were not addressed due to the changes in the statute that created the language commission.

He said the board is drafting the proposed amendments to the law, which will create a certification committee for translators.

"We're working on the rules and regulations that will be the guiding path for the committee that will certify the language translators," Macaranas told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The board chairman believes the translation of the indigenous languages helps create a wider understanding of the culture but inconsistencies in translations have resulted in the proliferation of "misconception and misunderstanding" of Chamorro and Carolinian words.

At present, the language commission employs only two translators: one each for Chamorro and Carolinian. The "demands and requests" for translation of official documents from various government agencies continue to hamper the other duties of the commission.

Macaranas said the commission will incorporate the proposal to authorize these translators to conduct trainings for government agencies.

"We don't want the language commission to be the translating agency for all government departments. The idea is to conduct training to their personnel so in case there are some translation works such as official documentations, they can do it at their level," Macaranas said, adding that the commission wants to fulfill all its mandates for the improvement and preservation of the native languages.

"Translation is just part of our multiple functions…and we want to fulfill all the mandates for the commission, including activities that would help in the preservation of our native languages," he said.

Although he believes that modernization and federalization will bring a lot of changes to the indigenous dialects, "I am confident that ours will survive," citing the two languages' history since the U.N. Trust Territory era.

A survey released in 2003 has shown that only 15 percent of students speak the local dialects on island.

Macaranas believes that parents are "partly" to blame as they didn't utilize and practice these languages at home.

"We need the parents' cooperation because it's in our home where we start everything," he said.

'Funding remains major problem'

The lack of financial support to carry out promotional activities for the languages remains the top factor why the commission failed in some of its activities.

Macaranas cited that the planned annual language symposium is also being hampered by a shortage of funding.

"We want to hold our next symposium on Tinian…but it will still depend on the funding available," he said, adding that majority of their activities rely on donations and sponsorship.

He believes that the economic hardship will affect this undertaking.

The language commission is also working on the revision of the Chamorro-English dictionary to incorporate important "updates" on the native languages.

However, completion of the project relies on the funding commitment of an off-island university.

For the Carolinian-English dictionary, federal funding was sourced out for the yet-to-be completed project spearheaded by the Carolinian Affairs Office.

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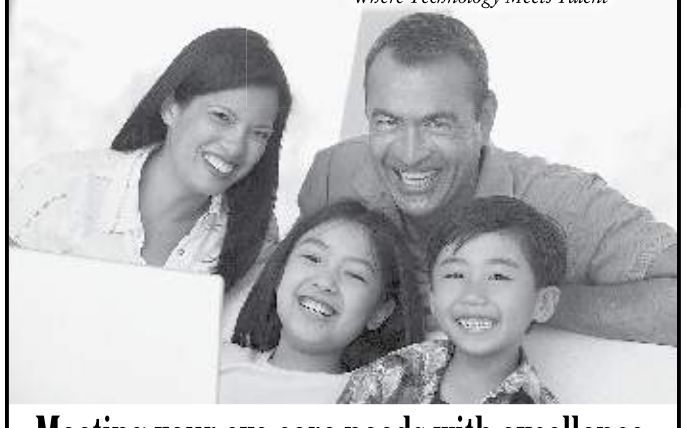

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Total number of SHEFA graduates unknown as yet

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Since the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Program began giving out funds in 2004, it has yet to track down all its beneficiary graduates to ensure that they stay and work in the CNMI for at least a year in exchange for receiving financial assistance to complete their studies.

SHEFA board member Howard I. Macaranas, a guest speaker at yesterday's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency, said that over 800 students from Saipan have so far been awarded financial assistance to pursue postsecondary education on island and in the United States under the program.

Macaranas said they have yet to come up with an official list of SHEFA graduates since the inception of the program so they could be made to serve the local community as required of them in exchange for their scholarship.

The value of SHEFA grants has been increasing every year until it reached over $1.65 million in Fall 2008.

In Fall 2008, SHEFA granted $1,653,400 in scholarship to 431 students pursuing postsecondary education.

"The Fall 2008 statistics is in sharp contrast to the first batch of awardees in Fall 2004 with 187 students and 116 in the Spring 2005 for a total investment of $756,500," Macaranas said.

Almost half of the Fall 2008 scholars have maintained or exceeded a grade point average of 3.5 on a scale of 4 in the previous semester/quarter, he added.

The surge in the number of scholars, according to Macaranas, could be attributed to SHEFA's annual outreach activities.

In yesterday's Rotary presentation, Macaranas called on the local business community yesterday to help train and hire scholars.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Howard I. Macaranas, right, a board member of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Program, calls on the local business community to help train and hire SHEFA scholars during a meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Hyatt Regency yesterday. Looking on is Rotary Club of Saipan president Ben Babauta.

"I cannot stress enough our desire for students to remain at home or return home to Saipan and provide valuable services to the local community in the same fine tradition of the Saipan Rotary Club," Macaranas said.

Poker funding and loan program

SHEFA has not implemented its loan program since its inception due to poker license funding limitations and the need to refine the implementation process.

"More importantly, however, this lack of implementation is due largely to the uncertainties and limitations in SHEFA funding, which is sourced solely from fees collected from the Saipan poker licenses," said Macaranas.

Macaranas, who is also the director of the Office on Aging, said the board will deliberate on the SHEFA loan program this week.

"I anticipate the board will likely adopt some policy guidelines for publication in the Commonwealth Register. Moreover, the municipal postsecondary loan assistance program would involve working in partnership with local private lending institutions and banks," he said.

He added that SHEFA stands ready to work closely with the Rotary Club or individual members in coordinating employment referrals, preparation of employment applications and supporting documents, job interviews and placements, as well as employment follow-up activities of these graduates.

This is done to ensure that the requirements and expectations demanded of SHEFA scholars are monitored and properly addressed in a timely manner.

Crime Stoppers to come up with cost effective TV campaign

The NMI Crime Stoppers Program is now working with KSPN to launch a "cost effective" program to replace the "Crime of the Week" stories on television, according to NMI Crime Stoppers president Jim Arenovski.

Arenovski announced this at the meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Hyatt Regency yesterday.

He called on the Rotary Club and the community to continue supporting the Crime Stoppers program, which has been facing financial challenges just like many programs and businesses in the CNMI due to the economic crunch.

Arenovski expects the new TV program to start by the end of the month.

Crime Stoppers provides rewards of up to $1,000 to anonymous callers who provide tips leading to arrests.

Earlier, Crime Stoppers said it stopped featuring "Crime of the Week" stories on TV due to lack of funding. The TV program features specific crimes every Friday to make the public aware of the crime and help authorities solve it. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

CASINOS

From Page 1

that Bridge Investment Group LLC is re-evaluating its $40 million to $50 million casino and condominiums project on the island because of federalization.

Borja said the commission was looking forward to Bridge Investment Group's construction as it would provide much needed jobs and business opportunities for local residents.

He said, however, that the commission understands and shares many of Bridge Investment Group's concerns as these same concerns will affect Tinian Dynasty and other casino applicants.

'Tougher times'

Alfred Yue, managing director of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, said Dynasty will face a tougher time once the new federal rules apply but it will maintain its operations.

"We have been doing business on Tinian for over 11 years. We are fighters and nothing will change us to keep up that spirit," Yue told *Saipan Tribune* in an e-mail.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's proposed regulations require Chinese and Russian tourists to secure a U.S. visa to enter the CNMI by June 1, 2009, unless extended.

Tinian's casino industry relies heavily on the Chinese market.

"The commission is hoping the Department of Homeland Security includes China in the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program or at least delay the implementation date for 180 days to allow Bridge Investment Group, Tinian Dynasty, and the other casino applicants time to adjust their marketing strategies and business models," Borja said.

In the pipeline

Two other casino investors on Tinian, according to Borja, have indicated that they are still pursuing their casino projects.

Marianas Resort Development Corp. plans to build a $300 million Matua Bay Resort, while Neo Gold Wings Paradise Saipan Corp. plans to construct a $200 million hotel-casino.

"MRDC has informed the commission that they are currently working on finalizing their golf course design. Neo Gold Wings Paradise Corp. is currently in the process of working with DPL [Department of Public Lands] and the CNMI Legislature for the approval of their land lease agreement," said Borja.

Phillip Mendiola-Long, executive vice president of Bridge Investment Group-CNMI, earlier said they are now re-evaluating their plan to build a casino and condominiums project on Tinian based on the global economic crunch and the federal takeover of CNMI immigration by June.

He said Bridge Investment projects $92 million in annual Tinian tourist revenue because of their project but these "economic forecasts are based only on continued access to the China tourist market and any subsequent changes to the ease of access to that market will negatively impact these current projections."

Bridge Investment Group, which has halted construction at the project site, secured a license to operate a casino on Tinian in 2005.

It earlier planned to build a $200 million project on Tinian called Tinian Oceanview Resort and Casino, but scaled it down to $40 million-$50 million in early 2008.

Limited labor pool

Borja said the commission is also concerned about the limited labor pool once the federal government takes control of local immigration.

The casino industry is a labor-intensive industry and many positions in the casino require employees with unique and specialized skills.

A casino resort on Tinian may require as many as 600 to 900 employees, he said.

"If nonresident workers are restricted from working in the CNMI after June 1, 2009, the casino investors will face a huge challenge finding enough skilled and unskilled employees to staff the resort," Borja added.

Besides Borja, the other commission members are Peter Q. Cruz Jr., Ignacio K. Quichocho and Michael H. San Nicolas.

Tinian, which is allowed to have five casinos and relies heavily on Chinese tourists, has only one operating casino—the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. earlier said the current casino projects show that the CNMI can attract investment capital if only the federal government allows it reasonable access to workers, tourists, investors and customers.

In related news, Dynasty officials recently met with members of the Tinian Legislative Delegation.

"It was a regular visit," Dynasty's Alfred Yue said. "They are always nice and always show concern about how they can help us and the people of Tinian. They are lawmakers; we gave them some suggestions how to improve the island and the gaming industry, and of course, things about federalization as well."

JANUARY

From Page 1

sales of the preceding months: 37 in December, 22 in November, and 36 in October.

CADA, he said, does not project growth in vehicle sales this year.

Deets, who is also the general manager of Triple "J" Corp., said the overall economic downtrend has been keeping the sale of new vehicles low.

"But one positive thing about it is that we [CADA] have been well adopted to the market for at least the last two years. We have streamlined operations, improved efficiency, closed all the gaps we could find and refined our processes for efficiency," he added.

Microl Corp. sold 15 units of Toyota last month, a 46.43-percent drop in the year-ago sales of 28.

Triple "J" Motors saw a 52.17-percent drop in January sales—from 23 last year to 11 this year. Triple "J" is the local authorized distributor of new Hyundai, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Suzuki and Mazda units.

Joeten Motors sold 10 new units of Nissan, Ford, Honda and Kia in January, a 37.5-percent drop from the year-ago sales of 16.

VOTERS

From Page 1

want to vote in the upcoming general elections in November.

These "failed" voters, she said, included both absentee voters who did not participate in last year's poll and those who were on-island but opted not to join the elections.

"This is our notice that they failed to vote last Nov. 4, 2008, general elections and that they are now required to re-register to be eligible to vote in the Nov. 7, 2009 elections," Villagomez said.

These voters may re-register with the election commissioners from the three municipalities—Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

For absentee voters, the agency is requiring forms to be filled up completely and notarized in the place where they send the forms from. Based on the law, registrations from outside the NMI must be mailed via the U.S. Postal Service.

Villagomez disclosed that one major reason for the "failed" absentee voters is the cost of notarizing the documents, which ranges from $10 to $20 apiece.

"We've been receiving calls from them, especially kids from abroad, informing us about this concern…but we could only explain to them the need to have their registrations on time," she said.

According to the CEC notice, "if you voted by absentee ballot, this may mean that your ballot was improperly cast, or did not arrive by the 14-day deadline and, in either case, was not counted. The Constitution directs the commission to remove the name of registered voter from the register if the person did not vote in the preceding general election."

The last day for registration is slated for Sept. 18, Villagomez said.

'High turnout, extra ballot'

Right after the 2008 election, Villagomez said the commission began preparations for the 2009 elections.

With only five personnel, including her, Villagomez described the work as "manageable" but "slow" at this time.

Due to limited funding for full-time employees, the agency will ask assistance from other agencies in setting up the polling places and precincts.

As of yesterday, Villagomez said only a couple of hundreds were entertained for registration.

"However, we're expecting a high turnout for this year's election," she said, citing the history of gubernatorial polls in the CNMI.

"We're expecting overall turnout of 80 percent and up… based on the previous gubernatorial elections," she said.

As of September 2008, the number of registered voters in the CNMI was 12,947. She said the number may go up to 15,000—as indicated by the 2005 poll.

The acting executive director said that from the estimated 12,000 ballots for printing, the commission will consider printing 3,000 extra forms in anticipation of the increase in registrants in September.

Villagomez said that money for the printing of extra ballots will be set aside by the government.

CUC seeking waiver on green energy mandate

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has asked the Public Utilities Commission to waive the law mandating it to meet renewable energy requirements until September 2010, saying the utility agency needs time to develop its financial and technical capability.

Under Public Law 15-87, CUC was required by Dec. 31, 2008, to produce 10 percent of its power using renewable sources—a goal that was not met. The percentage of renewable sources—including wind, solar, geothermal, ocean current and energy efficient—is to increase to 80 percent by the end of 2014. The law allows CUC to petition PUC for a waiver if it is unable to meet the standards in a cost-effective manner or because of unforeseen circumstances.

Right now CUC must work on rebuilding its finances, CUC said in the petition to PUC. Also, the utility agency noted in the petition, renewable power sources available on Saipan are cannot be delivered 24 hours a day seven days a week.

"A utility system must be ready to meet its customers' needs always. We burn oil because, once we have it, and once we maintain our engines properly, oil can provide us with electricity 24/7," the petition stated.

By contrast, CUC added, wind power is only available about 40 percent of the time and solar power only when the sun shines. Ocean currents may one day be a good source for the CNMI, but the technology is still being developed.

Palacios

Moreover, because CUC cannot borrow money and has no cash reserves, it cannot buy the equipment necessary for producing renewable energy.

The utility agency must first work on restoring its power generation and distribution system, the petition stated.

"CUC must also fix its own system first, because most of the renewable power it is likely to find will require 24/7 backup from oil generation," the petition said.

But CUC has taken initial steps to meet the law, according to the petition. First, the Attorney General's Office has developed regulations for net metering, which, under PL 15-87 offers the private sector a way to meet the requirements.

Second, CUC, along with the Water Task Force and the Office of the Governor, has partnered with the federal government to determine if there is a geothermal source under the island of Saipan.

Also, the petition stated, the utility agency hopes to tap into the economic recovery, renewable power funds which the Obama administration is expected to create.

The utility agency is also asking PUC to push back the March docket where the matter would be taken up, and instead schedule it for September 2009.

Meanwhile, several lawmakers on Capital Hill yesterday expressed frustration with Gov. Benigno Fitial's latest state of disaster emergency for CUC. The utility agency has been under a state of emergency for seven months and is expected to remain under an emergency for as long as the Aggreko generators are in place, in order to bypass procurement regulations and air quality standards.

"I think the emergency order is to keep everyone at bay," said Rep. Heinz Hofschneider.

House Speaker Arnold Palacios said he is disappointed he has not heard back from CUC executive director Antonio Muna regarding a letter he wrote a few months ago inquiring about CUC's current status.

"Nobody knows what the plan is. I know we hired an engineer," he said, referring to new deputy director for Utilities Systems Rehabilitation Wallon Young, who will oversee the rehabilitation of the engines.

The Legislature received word that $3.8 million in federal funds was reprogrammed for the engine restoration, but "other than that I believe we're in the dark on the timeline," Palacios said.

House recalls action on 'wrong' bill draft

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives has recalled their action on a bill after it was found they were working with the wrong draft.

Yumul

The House Ways and Means Committee recommended passing Senate Bill 16-9, but it was later found that they were not working with the latest version of the bill, S.B. 16-9 CS1.

"We acted on the wrong piece of legislation," said Rep. Ray Yumul, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. "What the Senate acted on was CS1. The committee reported on the original version."

The bill would allow for a 3 percent simple interest rate for outstanding obligations to the Commonwealth.

Yumul said that in the future when the Senate or House transmit legislation to their respective counterpart, the original language will not be worked with. The legislative assistants and attorneys will work with the committee on the language that was adopted.

The representative said he would take responsibility for the mistake.

House Speaker Arnold Palacios added that it was an isolated problem.

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'Record turnout' at adult education orientation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

New students at the Northern Marianas College listen to various presentations as part of the ABE Orientation last Monday.

Nearly 150 students took part in the Northern Marianas College's orientation for its adult basic education program last Monday. The islands' lone tertiary institution said the figure was the largest turnout in the program's 20-year history.

ABE encourages students to complete their high school diploma so they could go on to college or prepare for a career.

In a statement yesterday, NMC said the orientation was aimed at acquainting new students with not only programs and services at ABE but other programs offered by the college.

In Monday's orientation, available services were highlighted through presentations made by

Felicitas Abraham, acting NMC president and dean of Community Programs and Services, of which the ABE Program is part of;

Zenaida Javier, Outreach counselor from the College Access Challenge Grant Program;

Manny Castro, Enrollment manager from the Office of Admissions and Records;

Daisy Manglona-Propst, financial aid officer from the Financial Aid Office;

Heather Santos, program manager from the Career Services Office;

Greg Quitugua, Computer Lab supervisor; and

Ivan Mereb, ASNMC president

Also present to talk about military opportunities available to GED completers and Adult High School graduates was Lt. Col. Edward Camacho.

The evening's keynote speaker, Ursula Aldan, director of the Probation Office, shared her experiences as a GED graduate. She emphasized the importance of self-discovery, self-responsibility, sacrifice, and commitment to the path to success.

The programs and services highlighted in the orientation, NMC said, were meant to increase awareness among ABE students about college admission requirements, financial aid available to support college education, and various services available to help students remain and complete college.

The services covered include counseling, financial aid, tutoring, computer lab assistance, career planning, social activities, and student leadership development.

"Looking at last semester, I'm actually not surprised with the turnout," said ABE director and GED administrator Lorraine Cabrera, adding that students are becoming more focused on meeting their goals.

In the 20-year history of ABE, the college has recorded "high enrollment" but "low graduation" turnout because students entered in five different components such as English as second language sessions, where majority of foreign students are enrolled.

Other components of the NMC-ABE program include adult basic education for individual adults seeking literacy; adult secondary education for those seeking to earn a high school diploma; family literacy program; and GED Diploma or adult school diploma.

College records showed that, from only 160 enrollees, the figure has grown to over 900 since 1990.

In 1991, there were 10 who successfully made it through the program from an enrollment figure of 196; 21 graduated in 1992 from 201 enrollees; 11 completed in 1993 out of 244; 27 out of 429 students in 1994; 40 out of 430 in 1995; and 29 out of 366 in 1996.

It was in 1997 that the program recorded its highest graduation rate, with 80 students finishing the course out of 358 enrolled.

A high enrollment was also noted in 1998 where 632 entered the program but only 20 made it to the end; 22 were successful at their GED in 1999 when the program had 468 enrollees; 28 out of 527 graduated in 2000; 29 out of 680 in 2001; 49 out of 594 in 2002; 23 out of 475 in 2003; 26 students out of 436 enrollees in 2004; 18 out of 740 in 2005; 19 out of 929 in 2006; and 30 out of 530 potential graduates in 2007.

NMC said the common causes of attrition include the lack of transportation, limited childcare options, and the prioritization of full-time work over attending classes. To mitigate the adverse impact of these, NMC offers ABE classes at various locations throughout the island and students can now take the classes at the As Terlaje campus, Dandan, William S. Reyes, and San Antonio elementary schools, and the Manhoben Center.

For several years, the CNMI ABE program was a federally funded program focused on meeting the educational needs of adult-learners. Its mission is to provide the educationally disadvantaged adults of the community the opportunities to acquire basic skills necessary to function more effectively and productively and to gain upward mobility and provide the opportunities that will enable them to pursue further education. NMC is the designated state recipient of the ABE Insular grant for administrative purposes.

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DOC sued by its former chief operating officer

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The former chief operating officer of the Department of Corrections has sued the department for allegedly refusing to pay the balance of his contract that was terminated in 2005.

Michael A. O'Toole, now residing in Colorado, sued DOC for breach of contract. He asked the Superior Court to order the department to pay him $11,562.10 in damages, plus court costs and attorney's fees.

Attorney S. Joshua Berger stated in the complaint that DOC and his client, O'Toole, entered into a consulting contract in July 2005.

Berger said under the contract, O'Toole was to develop an occupational and staffing strategy for the development of the new CNMI adult prison, and manage the department through the actual transition process.

In November 2005, however, it was discovered that insufficient funds existed in the new prison facility accounts to complete the capital projects necessary to successfully open and operate the new facility, Berger said.

The lawyer said it was also found out that the prospect for additional funds "in the near future" was very dim

Accordingly, he said, then DOC Secretary Thomas A. Tebuteb and O'Toole agreed to terminate the contract.

Berger said the total amount agreed to be paid to O'Toole as of the termination was $22,461.10.

"Nevertheless, many months went by and plaintiff received no payment. However, nearly eight months after the contract was executed, plaintiff did receive a check for a little less than 50 percent of the amount owed, $10,899," the lawyer said.

Since that time, despite numerous demands being made by O'Toole and his legal counsel, nothing more was paid, Berger said.

The state-of-the-art new adult prison facility in Susupe officially opened in February 2008. DOC, however, only managed to move all inmates to that new facility in July 2008. Construction on the 100,000 square-foot lot in Susupe began in 2002. The first opening date target was in 2006, but contractual issues caused the delay.

Fitial calls GTC principal, assures funding support

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Thursday called Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School principal Charlotte Camacho to assure the administrator of continuous funding support for its renovation project.

Fitial, who has been criticized for reportedly canceling the GTC project from a block grant, told Camacho not to worry because capital improvement project funds will take care of the project. The school was supposed to get an $800,000 block grant from the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

Elated by the governor's action, Camacho said the school is excited to make the presentation to the governor.

She described the conversation with Fitial as "very brief and did not go into the details."

"We will be meeting with the governor and we will clarify where and how much of the money we will be getting for our renovation," the principal told Saipan Tribune during the science fair at the campus.

Based on the approved CDBG grant, construction of the school's most dilapidated buildings—B, F, G—will commence in June in time for the opening of the new school year in August.

"That's our goal," Camacho said, adding that the school's PTA was quite disappointed upon learning of the project's cancellation from the block grant list.

Camacho said the PTA initiated the submission of the renovation plan to the NMHC.

"The governor assured me that he will support both projects—the soccer complex and the GTC renovation. He just mentioned that CIP money is fit for our school renovation," she said.

It was earlier disclosed that GTC may displace over a hundred students if Bureau of Environmental Health recommends the closure of the three 30-year-old buildings.

Asked on the particular program to be reprogrammed from CIP, Camacho said this will be known once they met with the governor.

GTC was among the schools that got the highest student achievements in school year 2007-2008.

It has 238 students and employs a number of highly qualified teachers.

The school's students to teacher ratio is ideal at 18:1.

WING BEACH CLEANUP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eighteen volunteers from the Saipan Swim Club removed over 160 lbs of debris from Wing Beach, their adopted beach this year. While less trash was removed, the type of trash from picnic-goers has increased; more plates, forks, food wrappers and containers and aluminum cans were found.

House OKs bill giving nurse practitioners more autonomy

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

After debating and listening to several hours of testimony, the House of Representatives passed a bill yesterday allowing advanced nurse practitioners in the CNMI to work without the supervision of physicians.

Under Senate Bill 16-44, advanced nurse practitioners can treat patients in the scope of work that they are educationally prepared.

The measure can improve access to patient care, said Nursing Board chair Bertha P. Camacho, who spoke before the House. Nurse practitioners are cost effective and easier to hire in public health. There are currently four nurse practitioners on Saipan and one each on Tinian and Rota.

"It means we're a step ahead and we're in the process to allow the Board of Nursing to implement rules and regulations consistent with the Nurse Practice Act," she said.

Ben Aldan, president of the Saipan Health Clinic, raised concerns about the creation of the regulations during his testimony. Aldan urged the lawmakers to set their own definitions because the composition of the Nursing Board changes every year. He said he was trying to be cautious.

"It's so easy to prescribe something and find out it's really bad for the patient later on," he said.

Aurelia G. Long, the advanced practice registered nurse at the Tinian Health Center, said it is common in the states for advanced nurse practitioners to provide care for patients without physician supervision.

Advanced nurse practitioners have been working in the CNMI for close to 20 years, so it is not something new, Camacho said.

"Educational preparation is well laid out, and so it's not hard to understand that we are educationally trained," she added.

The Senate Health and Welfare Committee, in its report recommending the bill's passage, cited the difficulty of recruiting physicians and the lack of staff at the hospital and other health centers in the CNMI.

The report said health care is severely disrupted when a doctor goes on vacation or abruptly leaves, which has happened many times.

The bill will now head back to the Senate to be voted on because the House made some amendments.

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Rough waters expected up to Friday

The Emergency Management Office has issued a high surf advisory throughout the Commonwealth from 6pm Wednesday to 6am Friday.

The agency is strongly advising the public—especially beachgoers, fishermen, tourists, swimmers, divers, and surfers—to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beach especially along north and west facing reefs. The agency said rip currents could be life threatening to anyone entering the water.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, dangerous surf along north facing exposures will last through Wednesday.

According to the EMO Saipan, Tinian, and Rota should expect hazardous surf of 15-17 feet along north facing exposures through tonight. Surf heights along northern exposures will fall below 15 feet by Wednesday afternoon. Minor coastal inundation around a foot is possible around the time of high tide through Wednesday afternoon.

EMO is advising the public to stay clear of life-threatening surf along facing reefs. It reiterated that people should not go out to see the surf.

On Rota, people should avoid the north facing exposures that include Teteto beach, while on Saipan, they should stay clear of north facing exposures, including Achugau beach. ***(EMO)***

Global financial crisis hits Fiji tourism sector

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—The tourism business has taken a dip and most of it is because of adverse publicity about the state of tourism following the recent floods, says Fiji Islands Hotels Association president Dixon Seeto.

"We are experiencing quite a chop in business after the adverse publicity and incorrect information on the state of tourism after the floods."

Seeto said "any increase in cost will be affecting operations and businesses in total. For hoteliers, we are all for just wages but increment should be based on productivity."

"We have had discussions about pay increases with our respective unions over three years and with the new minimum wage guidelines, we will see how the situation will turn out."

According to Seeto, the state of the hotel business is a concern to them right now.

"The global financial situation is not alone to blame, our traditional partners Australia and New Zealand have been given the wrong idea on how the situation in Fiji is after the floods. But as we are talking, all major stakeholders in the industry, the government included will be embarking on a huge campaign to these two countries with the hope of getting the numbers back up."

"…..it is common practice for hotels all over the world to cut back on staff numbers and hours when there is a low season, it is something that all hoteliers do. This is done to ensure that there are jobs available in the future."

According to the new wage guidelines, the industry will have a minimum wage guideline for workers. In the old guideline issued in 2006, a student trainee is paid FJ$1.73 [US$0.74] an hour while the starting rate for other workers vary between FJ$2.15 to FJ$2.27, which from yesterday will increase between 20 cents to 50 cents.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Meeting of the Autism Society of the CNMI

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding its monthly meeting on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009, at 5:30pm at the NMPASI Conference Room. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism related spectrum disorders are invited to attend. For additional information, call John at 234-8803/4 or Larrisa at 322-3761 or send an email to as_cnmi@yahoo.com.

UPAA CNMI meeting

The University of the Philippines Alumni Association-CNMI Chapter will have a meeting on Sunday, Feb. 8, 10am at the Filipino Workers Resource Center, first floor, Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe. All UPAA officers/members and UP alumni are invited to attend. ***(PR)***

Chamber membership meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be holding its general membership meeting today, Feb. 4, 2009, at the Sandcastle of the Hyatt Regency Saipan. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am; the meeting will begin at noon.

Senior Special Agents Daniel Holcomb and Michael Byerley from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will speak with Chamber members about the DEA's mission in the CNMI so that the business community can better understand how their mission impacts the economy and what opportunities exist for the private sector to support that mission. Chamber members will also hear briefly from committee chairs about plans for 2009. The meeting is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for the public. ***(PR)***

DEQ brigade sets COP cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Coral Ocean Point (Unai Dangkulo) on Feb. 7.

Thos who would like to volunteer may join the group on Saturday, Feb. 7, at 8am. Volunteers will clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Marianas High School schedule

Feb. 11: 2nd Quarter Report Card Day/Open House, 4pm-6pm (student released at 1pm, parents pick up report cards from Homeroom teachers)

Feb. 16: No classes (President's Day)

Feb. 17: No classes (PSS Professional Development)

Feb. 27: Cultural Day, 9am-3pm MHS Campus, Open to the public

For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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PUBLIC NOTICE

The staff of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation will have a Wellness and Rehabilitation Day on Friday, February 6th, 2009 from 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM. Services for this particular day will be temporarily halted until Monday February 9th, 2009.

Thank you for your full support and understanding

Margarita R. Olopai-Taitano
OVR Director

This announcement is paid for by federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS).

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 4, 1999

No money for scholars

The government has no money to provide funding assistance to Northern Marianas College this year, but it needs to suspend scholarship grants this summer and slash financial aid to off-island students just to be able to accommodate its immediate needs. This is the assessment of the Tenorio administration to the House committee of Health, Education and Welfare on its request to set aside some funds for the cash-strapped college which has asked $575,000 in additional appropriation to cover tuition and other expenses of some 530 students this spring semester. "It doesn't look good," committee chair Rep. Heinz Hofschneider told NMC officials at the resumption of the oversight hearing on the state college yesterday. "I'm sorry, there is no additional revenues."

CNMI charges US with strong-arm tactics

A Washington proposal substantially reducing funding for infrastructure projects in the Northern Marianas has alarmed CNMI officials, calling it a ploy to force the commonwealth into accepting a plan on federal takeover of labor and immigration. The 51 percent cutback, unveiled in the Fiscal 2000 spending package President Bill Clinton has submitted to the US Congress for approval, would pare down to $5.6 million the $11 million yearly appropriation to the local government for Capital Improvement Projects. Local officials are worried that if the White House proposal goes through, it would adversely impact the commonwealth's seven-year CIP master plan, which funds will come from federal grants.

February 4, 2000

Senate revives 80MW plant

Citing "irregularities" in its decision to scrap the 80-megawatt power project, the Senate yesterday passed legislation to force the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to stick with the original proposal despite its plan to have a smaller-sized plant. The measure, if it becomes law, will declare as public policy the need for a project with such magnitude and effectively nullify the decision by the board last month to cancel the initial request for proposal (RFP). Under Senate Bill 12-19 offered by Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes, the CUC board will be absolved from potential liability arising from such decision, while doing away with its plan to conduct a fresh round of bidding, this time for a 60-MW generation capacity. "It is hereby declared to be public policy of the Commonwealth that construction of an 80-MW power plant under the build, operate, transfer concept, beginning with immediate installation of 60 MW of generating capacity, is in the best interest of the Commonwealth and the people," the bill stated.

Food stamp recipients jump 25 percent

The number of food stamp recipients jumped 25 percent from 1998 to 1999 or a total of 1,517 households, as the island's economy remain at a standstill, according to James Kintol, Nutritional Assistance Program director. Due to the increase in food stamp grantees, Mr. Kintol said he has asked for a $1 million additional funding on top of its recently approved $5.1 million budget for Fiscal Year 2000. "They did approve the request for additional budget since there are indications that the food stamp recipients are increasing. We just have to submit the proper documents or show proof to justify the request," he said.

February 4, 2002

27 months for Delbert Sablan

US District Court Chief Judge Alex R. Munson meted out a 27-month jail sentence on former police investigation chief Delbert R. Sablan based on his October 2001 theft conviction. Sablan, found guilty of stealing thousands of dollars in confidential informant funds during his tenure as police captain and Officer-In-Charge of the Criminal Investigation Bureau, was ordered to pay $8,491 in restitution to the Department of Public Safety. He was also directed to pay a fine of $15,000 and a $100 special assessment fee. Munson upheld the prosecution's motion to increase the length of Sablan's imprisonment but minimized the recommended six-level-which would mean an extra two years in prison-to a two-point upward departure, the length of which was not specified.

Outbound passengers to pay additional fee

All outbound passengers originating from the United States and its territories, as well as those travelling domestically, started coughing up an additional $2.50 for their airline tickets, after the US government ordered the implementation of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act. The new law, which was passed and implemented after the September 11 tragedies, mandate all carriers flying the United States air space to finance the operation of civil aviation security services. This includes the collection of a minimum of $2.50 from every airline passenger originating from the United States as payment for the Federal Aviation Administration's security fee.

New Fund requirements on disability benefits in effect

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund now requires members applying for disability benefits to undergo reasonable examination by two licensed and practicing physicians selected by the board of trustees.

At least one of these two examining physicians should be a specialist in the area of disability being examined, according to newly amended Retirement Fund regulations implementing Public Law 16-19.

Previously, Fund members needed to be examined by one license physician or vocational rehabilitation experts or other experts selected by the administrator.

Fund administrator Mark Aguon said yesterday the amended regulations are now in effect following the closure of the comment period on Jan. 22.

The Fund received only one comment which did not relate to the proposed amendment to the regulations published in the December issue of the Commonwealth Register.

The amended regulations provide for comprehensive policy and procedures for members applying for disability benefits and the requirements.

According to the amended regulations, the Fund administration shall have the right to investigate the member's disability and submit any information gathered from an investigation to a licensed physician or a specialist to determine a member's initial or continuing entitlement to a disability annuity.

If any examination indicates that the disability annuitant is no longer physically or mentally incapacitated for service, or that the disability annuitant is engaged in or is able to engage in a gainful occupation, payment of the disability annuity by the Fund shall be discontinued.

Heavy downpour causes f looding in Solomons

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Times/PIR)—A heavy downpour caused widespread damage to homes, property and food gardens in about seven villages in West Guadalcanal.

The National Disaster Management Office last Friday received reports that flooding had caused villages to be swept away.

The NDMO, Police (Head Quarters and Guadalcanal Province Police) and RAMSI have deployed several assessment teams to the affected areas.

The joint NDMO, SIRC, Police and RAMSI team have covered a total of seven (7) villages including the Selwyn College Secondary School.

Names of places being visited including Selwyn College School are Koboro, Haumora, Maravovo, Nau'utu, Navasa and Paru.

In a press conference last Friday, Acting Commissioner of Police Operations Nela Mosese said Police Patrol Boat Lata has conducted search and rescue operations during the weekend.

Media was informed of bridges from Tamboko to Kohimarama being washed away by heavy flooding, as well as the Berande Bridge in northeast Guadalcanal.

Mosese said sixty officers in total from the Police Response Team and RAMSI's Participating Police Force are assisting the NDMO with assessing affected areas.

He said two other boats traveled to Aola area while a helicopter flew to Tamboko, as far as Aruligo areas, to evacuate families.

He told the media that a woman and her two children who had earlier been reported missing have been found alive and well, but a father and his son were still missing.

Meanwhile, a media statement from the Guadalcanal Provincial Disaster Committee and the National Disaster Management Office yesterday said eight people are still reported as missing while three unconfirmed deaths have been reported on northwest of Guadalcanal and Savo Island.

The statement also said the Guadalcanal Provincial Disaster Committee will send six teams to carry out thorough assessments from Tamboko to Kohimarama areas today, as well as dispatch the MV Kangava with food for those affected.

Sexual assault tops list of crimes in Vanuatu

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (Vanuatu Daily Post/PIR)—The Chief Justice Vincent Lunabek has disclosed that, of all criminal matters completed by the Supreme Court in Port Vila last year, offenses of a sexual nature make up 64 percent of the 380 cases, a record he said has never happened since the 1990s.

Second highest in criminal matters is offenses against the Dangerous Drugs Act, which comprised of 12 percent.

In the Supreme Court of Lugainville (including cases from Penama and Torba Provinces) offenses of sexual nature make up 46 percent while 18 percent of criminal matters completed by the Supreme Court were offences against the Dangerous Act.

"There were two homicide cases dealt with by the Supreme Court in Port Vila and one of reckless driving causing death," he said.

"Moreover cases of unlawful entry and theft make up 22 percent of all criminal cases completed by the Port Vila Supreme Court."

The Chief Justice said statistics collected show 193 applications for domestic violence protection orders were made to the Magistrates' Courts in 2008 with 39 percent of these applications made in Port Vila and 20 percent in Lugainville.

The majority of cases filed in the Island Courts are claims for child maintenance under the Maintenance of Child Act.

Also on the rise is the dispute for chiefly titles. There are seven cases involving chiefly title disputes registered in Efate Island Court and six registered in the Island Court of Malampa Province.10 of these are still pending in the Island Courts.

Out of the 91 customary land cases pending in the Island Courts, three were disposed of and 88 remained.

Nevertheless the Chief Justice said while the Court of Appeal had more appeal cases than criminal ones, this year shows the gap closing with 17 civil and 15 criminal appeal cases.

Chief Justice Vincent Lunabek revealed these statistics yesterday during the opening of the court sessions for 2009.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Layoffs loom at University of South Pacific

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—The University of the South Pacific is planning to lay off around 30 staff as the regional institution prepares to open for the new academic year later this month. According to USP Staff Association president Sunil Kumar, some contracts have not been renewed on the basis of "stipulated criteria within USP staff ordinance" such as retirement and non-performance. "We have opposed the redundancy plan of USP from the start and have been negotiating with the management to minimize the number of academic and comparable staff to be laid off," Kumar added.

Savusavu resort burns to ground

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji 1 News/PIR)—The Fijian-styled Resort located 10 kilometers from Savusavu Airport caught fire around 9 p.m. last night. There were no injuries. The resort is located on the Oceanfront at Hibiscus Highway. The Canadian guest says they managed to save a few things. Southerland says the Fire Brigade attended to the scene within minutes. The National Fire Authority in Savusavu says they will visit the fire scene tomorrow. The estimated cost of damage around 1 million dollars.

Cook Islands' black pearl industry in trouble

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—he black pearl industry in Manihiki in the Cook Islands northern group is expected to recover despite the local population plummetting to just 280. The mayor Kora Kora, says over the past five years, the number of serious pearl farmers has dropped from 300 to 30, adding the global economic crisis hasn't helped matters. But Kora Kora is confident the industry will survive, especially with the assistance of the Cook Islands government. "We're thankful the government has come in and set up the Cook Islands Pearl Authority so we're hoping the next three or four years that we can see an expansion again."

Samuel C. Lo, O.D., M.D.

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Dr. Lo will be in Saipan beginning February 16, 2009 for one week.
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MELL SENTOSA	015E	1/24 Sat	1/22 Thu	1/22 Thu	1/20 Tue	1/17 Sat	1/30 Fri	1/26 Mon	1/25 Sun	1/18 Sun	1/18 Sun	1/26 Mon	1/30 Fri	2/1 Sun	2/3 Tue
STADT HAMBURG	029E	1/31 Sat	1/29 Thu	1/29 Thu	1/27 Tue	1/24 Sat	2/6 Fri	2/2 Mon	2/1 Sun	1/25 Sun	1/25 Sun	2/2 Mon	2/6 Fri	2/8 Sun	2/10 Tue
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Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	015E	2/7 Sat	2/8 Sun	2/8 Sun	SKIP	2/12 Thu	2/14 Sat	2/15 Sun	2/17 Tue	2/20 Fri	2/21 Sat	2/26 Thu	3/17 Tue	3/15 Sun	2/25 Wed
STADT HAMBURG	029E	2/14 Sat	2/15 Sun	2/15 Sun	2/17 Tue	2/19 Thu	2/22 Sun	2/23 Mon	2/25 Wed	2/27 Fri	2/28 Sat	3/5 Thu	3/24 Tue	3/22 Sun	3/4 Wed
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MELL SENTOSA	016E	2/28 Sat	3/1 Sun	3/1 Sun	3/3 Tue	3/5 Thu	3/7 Sat	3/8 Sun	3/10 Tue	3/13 Fri	3/14 Sat	3/19 Thu	4/7 Tue	4/5 Sun	3/18 Wed
STADT HAMBURG	030E	3/7 Sat	3/8 Sun	3/8 Sun	SKIP	3/12 Thu	3/14 Sat	3/15 Sun	3/17 Tue	3/20 Fri	3/21 Sat	3/26 Thu	4/14 Tue	4/12 Sun	3/25 Wed
MELL SENOKO	018E	3/14 Sat	3/15 Sun	3/15 Sun	3/17 Tue	3/19 Thu	3/21 Sat	3/15 Sun	3/24 Tue	3/27 Fri	3/28 Sat	4/2 Thu	4/21 Tue	4/19 Sun	4/1 Wed

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Virtual groundswell

China's Charter 08 models itself on the Charter 77 group in the former Czechoslovakia, an alliance of dissidents whose powerful advocacy for human rights triumphed in the former Soviet bloc. But China's Charter 08 has a tool that Vaclav Havel and his colleagues never imagined: the Internet. While Soviet-era dissidents had to depend on smudgy mimeographs and Western radio stations to get their message out, Charter 08 has been able to use Web sites, e-mails and text messages—despite the massive firewall operation of Chinese authorities.

Thanks to that technology, the new democracy movement has been able to amass a virtual crowd of supporters. As Ariana Eunjung Cha reported in The Washington Post, more than 8,100 Chinese from all walks of life have signed the manifesto first issued by 300 artists and intellectuals last month. That makes Charter 08 the largest pro-democracy movement Beijing has known since the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests—and it demonstrates that the Communist Party's creaking totalitarianism has become intolerable for many people—teachers, engineers, businessmen, farmers, construction workers.

The initiative has appeared at a crucial moment. Only months after flaunting its model of unfree capitalism at the Beijing Olympics, China's leadership is under severe pressure from the global economic crisis. Millions of workers have lost their jobs, and the state's social safety net is thin. Democracies under the same pressure have outlets for discontent: Protesters can clamor in Greece, Iceland or Latvia without threatening the foundations of the political system. In a country where free speech and assembly, free labor unions and even free worship are banned or severely restricted, the danger of destabilizing unrest is far greater.

China's authorities know that and are worried about it, but their counterproductive reaction has been to step up repression. Liu Xiaobo, a literary critic suspected of helping to organize the charter, was jailed shortly after its release and remains in detention despite growing international pressure for his release. The Post's article on the growing number of Charter 08 signatories was blocked by the regime's firewall. President Hu Jintao and his regime, who have made no movement toward liberalization during six years in power, appear to have learned little from the history of authoritarian regimes that have resisted popular pressure for change.

What that history shows is that the best response to a peaceful movement such as Charter 08 is dialogue. Rather than prosecuting Liu, the regime should free him and invite him to a discussion about the charter's 19 proposed steps for reform. A commitment to gradually implement political liberalization in partnership with a free citizens movement would make it far easier for the Chinese leadership to manage what is likely to be a year of crisis. Step One is easy: Stop trying to block Charter 08's dissemination on the Internet.

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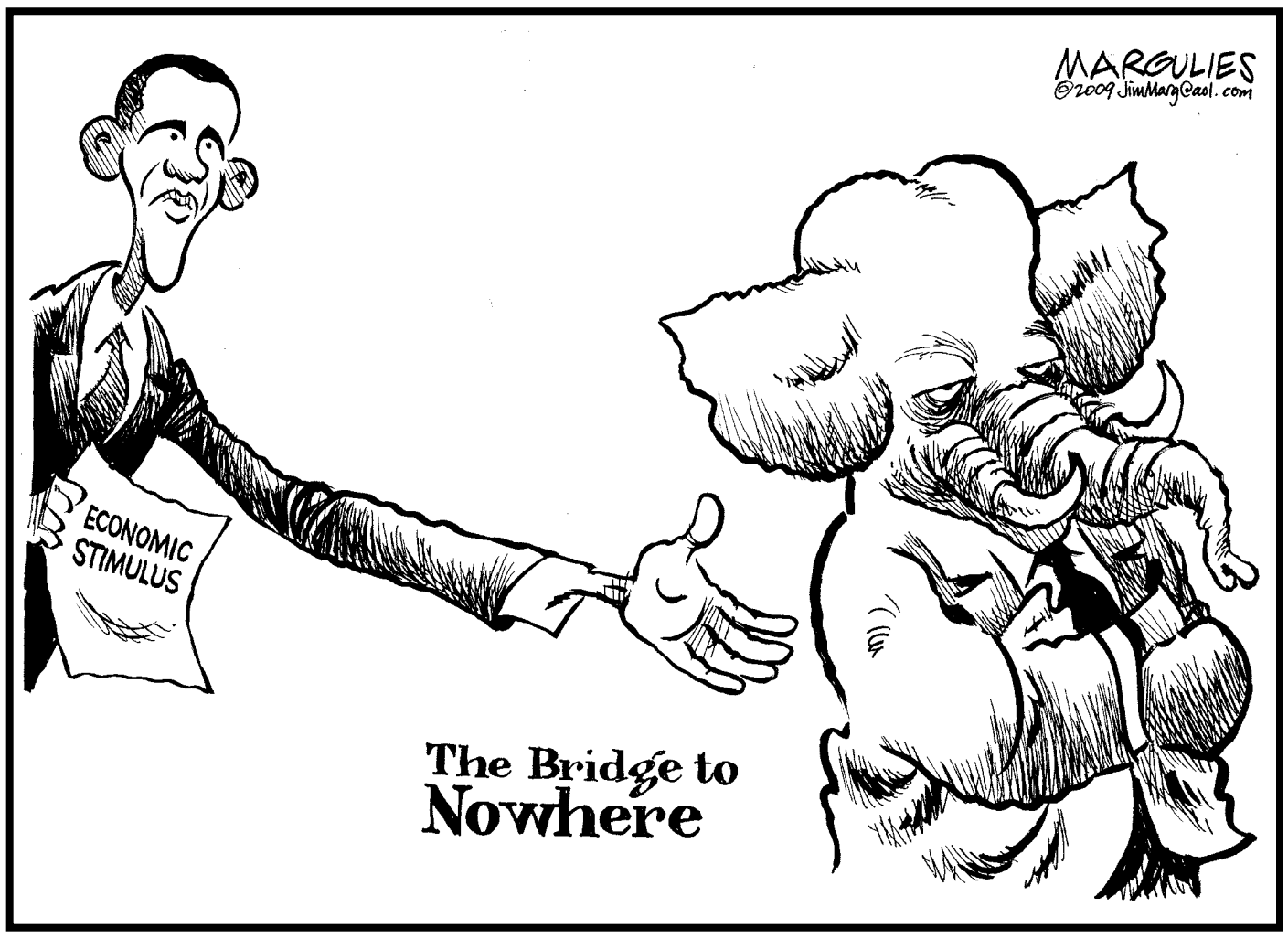

Words for Rashaa (and inspiration for the rest of us)

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Here's an e-mail exchange that occurred this week following the airing of a radio program on which I was interviewed.

Hi Walt,

I am Rashaa, "creator" :) of Pink Chocolate Vegan Cupcakes. I wanted to thank you for your feedback on The McKenzie Business Forum *talk radio show today.*

I've heard very few people tie spirituality to business or anything related and that was refreshing to hear. I also want to thank you for your candidness as to why you wanted a different life for yourself [I told Rashaa I want the freedom to see movies in the middle of the day]. *That admission alone was priceless for me! There are a few things in life I would never include as my reasons for wanting to start my own business such as loving to be outside absorbing the heat from the high noon sun, there's just something about that time of day for me and the thought of being inside punching somebody's clock is saddening for me. The sun reminds me of God. The sun does these amazing things for my existence so I don't want to be confined in a building most days of my life, missing God. Wow, I've never said that to anyone but myself.....*

Some things you suggested today I haven't done, like target health stores with my cupcakes but some of that is because I know it's premature at this point of my journey and I'm actually not sure I want my product in stores…that's more of a long-term goal.

...My other main reason for Pink Chocolate is sitting on my lap demanding I read Thomas the Train *so I will wrap this up. However, I am testing the mail order idea of my cupcakes and would like to ask if you would allow me to send you the Pink Chocolate Cupcakes Box Set which includes everything you need to bake wonderful vegan cupcakes (except for the muffin pan and oven)? I've haven't researched it thoroughly but I can't say I've heard of anyone doing this with vegan cupcakes so maybe I'm on to something. Again, thank you for today, I feel even more motivated and encouraged....*

—rashaa, www.pinkchocolatecupcakes.com

Hi Rashaa,

I'm glad I could be of motivational benefit to you. As James Taylor proclaimed in song, "*That's why I'm here*!"

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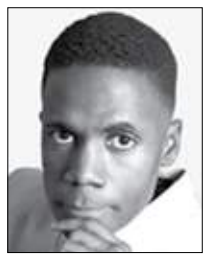
Creating economic success for the CNMI



By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

I've waited a day to send this to you specifically so I could share with you what I did today. As you may have heard on the radio show, I'm currently spending my time on the island of Saipan—a little piece of paradise in the Pacific. I just came back from spending an hour sunbathing and communing with the sun (details of my degree of undress shall remain undisclosed). The sun does amazing things for me, too. I feel more alive and "real" when I am able to bask in it.

There are those who will tell you that the sun is not merely a "reminder" of God, but the cosmic manifestation of the creator. The reason you feel saddened when away from the direct rays of the sun is that the unnatural environment of most office and work environments (stale "conditioned" air, artificial light) keep you out contact with your source. (visit www.lawofone.info)

One of the best things you can do for your entire being is to spend an hour in direct sunlight every day. Don't let the sunscreen companies fool you. Sunlight does not cause skin cancer. In fact, people would ascend to higher levels of health and mental acuity, reverse osteoporosis, Alzheimer's, and lower their risk of cancer if they would make exposure to direct sunlight a regular part of their daily routine. (no shades, and especially no glass in between you and the sun) (Visit mercola.com and naturalnews.com and search for "sunlight")

But, I digress. My main reason for writing is that some of the thoughts in your letter and during our talk on the air call out for response.

Answer the right questions.

There are three questions that are ultimately of lasting importance to all of us.

1. *Who am I? 2. Why am I here? 3. How shall I survive?*

Every other question with which we busy ourselves is simply distraction. Finding out who you are, why you are here, and devising a means of survival are the only real issues. While many

See WORDS on Page 11

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Old enough to know better

By HENRY ALFORD
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

It's a lovely irony: Gertrude Baines, 114, the world's oldest person, lives in Los Angeles, the world's most youth-obsessed city. It's like finding a vintage Ferrari in a parking lot full of Yugos.

During the 20th century, we added almost three decades to the average human life expectancy. What are we doing with these extra years? Are we making good use of them, or just soliloquizing about other, better times or the fascinating intricacies of our various maladies? In the example of Gertrude Baines, the answer is the former.

Baines lived independently (with a caretaker's help) until she broke her hip at age 107. This daughter of former slaves—in her lifetime she has seen women win the right to vote and blacks reclaim it—cast her ballot for President Barack Obama ("I didn't never think I'd live this long").

She makes it clear she bears no regrets about her life and holds no secret of longevity. She paints a portrait of old age whose hallmarks are wit and acceptance. I salute her.

It's commonly said—but I believe it anyway—that old folks are wise. Indeed, for many over the age of 70, old age is, outside of medical maladies, a time of self-fulfillment and self-mastery, a time when they are more themselves than ever.

The reasons for this vary. For some, it's a question of having more time to self-reflect; for others, it may be a product of having thrown off societal constraints, or of being more conscious of their diminished time on the planet.

Our cultural landscape is currently graced with a group of creative people over 70 who critics say are doing some of the best work of their careers—writers Philip Roth and Joan Didion, sculptor Louise Bourgeois and composer Elliott Carter. It would be presumptuous to ascribe their continued successes to one single reason and, yet, it's hard not to conclude that perhaps practice really does make perfect.

It's even possible to follow this tendency toward self-mastery all the way to the end of life. If we look at various people's last words, it's fascinating how inimitable and self-describing so many of them are.

Oscar Wilde died in a flophouse with the quip, "Either that wallpaper goes or I do"—a statement so Wildean it's almost parody.

Henrik Ibsen spent his career scandalizing the Victorians. On his deathbed, when his nurse remarked that he was looking better, Ibsen replied, "On the contrary," and then died.

Or consider P.T. Barnum ("How were the receipts today at Madison Square Garden?"), Flo Ziegfeld ("The show looks good!") or Timothy Leary ("Why not? Yeah.")

Aging itself is a product of civilization. By wiping out our predators and by making advances in medicine, humans have given themselves the opportunity to grow old. If being old is all bodily pains and reduced eyesight and faulty wiring—and don't get me started on the topic of dermal creping—then why, anthropologically and evolutionarily speaking, would we have bothered to grant ourselves this "opportunity"? Vanity alone seems insufficient cause.

I would argue that humans have accorded themselves long life because elders serve an important role in society. As an old African saying goes, "The death of an old person is like the burning of a library."

These living libraries are among our greatest sources of wisdom.

As with truth or beauty or genius, wisdom can be difficult to define. Maybe it's like pornography—you know it when you see it. But I think T.S. Eliot got close to a working description when he wrote in "Four Quartets": "The only wisdom we can hope to acquire is humility/Humility is endless."

Gertrude Baines exhibits some of this endlessness. May it increase.

Alford is the author of How to Live: A Search for Wisdom from Old People (While They Are Still on This Earth).

Letter to the Editor

Oil money loses, we win

It was a great victory for the "forces of rvil." It was a great victory for the people of the Commonwealth. It was pretty embarrassing to Pew and their breathless followers, the pew-ites.

Of course we are talking about the recently designated marine monument. Those that wanted some kind of additional protection in our waters got it but without the ham-handed no-take approach that the Pew-sters demanded. Those who wanted perpetual indigenous access to those areas for fishing got it. Those who wanted unlimited navigation into and out of the areas or wanted access for recreation, diving and research with *local* government permitting got it. Those who wanted access to extraction of mineral resources got it. Those who wanted our close in territorial waters and submerged lands given back to us got it.

Those who wanted to waltz in and designate a monument to themselves with no access and no-take and no extraction, fortunately, did not get what they wanted. The Pew-sters got a monument, but they got their collective egos handed to them in a sack as they watched their pet project completely dismantled and a whole new plan put into action that finally took into account the wishes and rights of the citizens of the CNMI.

Here's how it happened: Once it became apparent that some sort of monument was going to be designated come hell or high water, the proud Forces of Evil began working lots of overtime to get something out of it for the people of the Commonwealth and to make sure the final form allowed access into and extraction from the monument areas. Through talks and lengthy negotiations with Connaughton and other forces inside the Bush administration, we got major concessions including reduction of the onerous 200-mile boundary to only 50 miles around our northernmost islands. We got them to designate the actual Trench as a monument and we got them to allow unfettered access to those waters for fishing. We worked diligently to make extraction of valuable minerals possible and we got them to start the wheels in motion to give us full rights to our submerged lands around all of the 14 islands in the Northern Marianas.

The only way this could have worked out better was for the U.S. to back off completely and realize that these waters and lands belong to the indigenous who have protected them for thousands of years. The U.S. has the armed power to force the issue and chose to use it. As Lino Olopai put it, we wound up trading that which we already owned for use of that which we already owned in an area we already owned. But at least we got that much. Laura Bush and her dancing partner pew-ites wanted the whole shooting match, leaving the indigenous as beggars in our own waters. They lost. At least we proud Forces of Evil got some important rights returned to our citizens. The combined efforts of Gov. Fitial, Speaker Palacios, yours truly and others stood in front of the federal steamroller and got it to stop in its tracks and reverse course. We worked hard to protect your interests…but that is our job. We are proud to do it. Proud to have ousted the real pewish evildoers. Proud to be Chamorro. Proud to be Carolinian. Proud to be citizens of the Commonwealth in *voluntary* political alliance with the USA.

Rep. Stanley McGinnis Torres
16th Legislature, Capital Hill

WORDS

From Page 10

people choose to separate the pursuit of answers to those questions, the most efficient course, in my opinion, is to combine them. In other words, link your identity (who I am) to your purpose (why I am here) to your means of survival (how I shall survive). In other words, turn your passion into profit!

Since we live in a capitalist society, we must sell in order to survive. We sell our time, our talents, our products or services. If you had a plot of land you owned outright, didn't have to pay property taxes, and could grow and build what you needed to survive, there would be no need to sell anything. But, given that we must sell to survive the way our society is constructed, doesn't it make sense to be as efficient as we can? Find your purpose, discover your passion and use it to survive and thrive, and you feed three birds with one seed! (I'm not one for killing them with stones!)

2. Be true to yourself.

Rashaa, you are not here to adapt to what others think is appropriate. If, for example, your reason for starting your business is to spend more time with your cat, then so be it. You don't have to modify it for anyone. Don't be ashamed of it. You will be surprised—as you discovered yourself—that the most candid of responses are the most poignant and ultimately of most benefit to others. You connected to what I said about wanting to see movies in the middle of the day because it is my truth. We are all more alike than different, you see, and what is truth for me resonates with what is truth for you. We connect on the level of truth.

3. Set your own bar

What if I told you that experts say that it takes five years to learn how to tie your shoe laces? How would you respond? You would laugh at me, wouldn't you. Why? Because you know for a fact that it doesn't take five years!

I'm here to tell you, Rashaa, that it doesn't take five years for your company to be successful. It can take five months, five days, or five minutes!

Let's conduct an experiment. Ask someone you think is intelligent how long it takes to make a sale on a website once you launch it. Do that now, before you continue reading. OK, what did they tell you?

Now, I'm telling you that on more than one occasion, in less than 48 hours of launching a website, I made a sale. I'm telling you that in 1992 I wrote a 200-page book in four weeks, that continues to outsell all my other books. I'm telling you that I even sell products that don't exist (at the time I launch the site), and people can and will "pay on a promise" of future delivery. All these things are realities I've discovered that go against what experts say about creativity, selling, and business success.

4. Listen to the right people

Rashaa, you're listening to the wrong people! So, who should you listen to? Well, if your field of vision were wide enough, if your vantage point were high enough, and if you were sufficiently convinced of your identity as a creator, and the greatness within you, you would need only listen to yourself!

But, alas, you view the world through a prism of others' construction, you stand on the shoulders of those who have not climbed as high as they could, and you've let others define who you are and what you can do. And so your belief in yourself and the possibilities that await lies dormant.

You are living a life disconnected from truth, and thus your business struggles and what you believe to be normal is limited. Notice how the simple statement I made (that shows I am fearlessly connected to the truth of what motivates made) affected your level of motivation. Imagine how much more creative, motivated and profitable you could be if you were connecting to truth like that on a daily level! There's a reason why philosophers and spiritualists have said "the truth shall set you free." Once you connect with truth in all its forms, you live a fearless life. You live a life unencumbered by limits that others accept.

5. Become a Truth Seeker

There's a saying that "*the only way to control someone is to lie to them*." Anyone who is controlling another person is lying to them. Conversely, anyone who is experiencing a life of limitations, scarcity, helplessness and who feels controlled by others has been lied to. They have been lied to about themselves, the world, their place in it, the power they wield as well as many other things.

People cannot manipulate you once you know truth. You cannot be fooled by marketers who would sell you drugs as a cure for disease, if you know the truth about what causes disease. You cannot be fooled by diet plan creators who would sell you shakes that make you lose weight, if you knew the truth about why people gain weight. You cannot be misled by experts who tell you what is possible in business if you know a different truth and the true basis of success. And you could not be fooled or controlled by people who would keep you away from sunlight once you know the power it has for creation and cure.

So, where do you start? Become a truth seeker. Resolve to question conventional wisdom. Commit to creating a new truth for yourself. Check out the sites I mentioned, and as you grow in your new belief of what's real and what's possible, you will find your reality changing in astounding ways. You CAN create the lifestyle of your dreams, Rashaa. Go for it. Your sun awaits!

—Walt

p.s. Yes, you may certainly send me the box set! My address follows.

***Note**: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!*

***Note:** If you're a rabble rouser on Saipan having trouble accessing the dhs.gov site, visit www.regulations.gov, download a copy of the regulations (Docket #: USCBP-2009-0001) and submit comments. They can also be mailed to: Border Security Regulations branch, Office of International Trade, Customs and Border Protection, Mint Annex 799 9th Street, NW, Washington DC 20001*

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

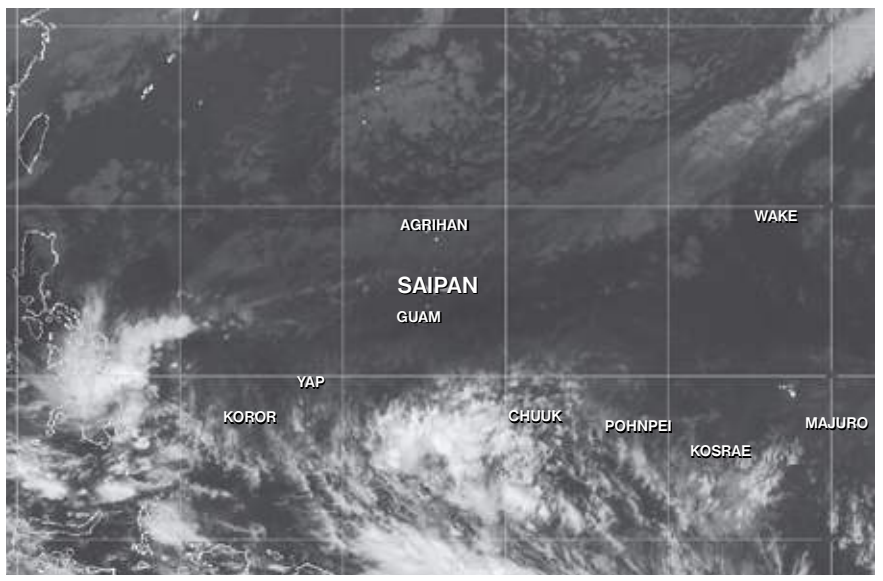
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲84	▼75
Palau	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲89	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲87	▼81
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲74	▼65
Beijing	Sunny	▲48	▼28
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲73	▼63
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲76	▼67
London	Cloudy	▲39	▼34
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲74	▼52
Manila	Cloudy	▲82	▼75
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼73
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲66	▼39
New York	Flurries	▲27	▼17
Osaka	Cloudy	▲51	▼38
Paris	Showers	▲40	▼36
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲56	▼41
Rome	Showers	▲57	▼46
Salem	Cloudy	▲53	▼33
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲63	▼48
Seoul	Cloudy	▲48	▼30
Tokyo	Showers	▲48	▼35
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲33	▼22

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, FEB. 3, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25N170E to near Anatahan in the CNMI at 16N145E then finally to beyond 130E at 11N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 300 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough extends east-southeastward from 3N130E through a weak circulation centered near 2N134E to end at EQ150E. Winds converging near the trough are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest of Koror between the equator and 7N from 130E to 132E. A surface trough arcs northwestward from 3N149E to 8N147E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough are occurring to the south of a line from 7N143E to 10N149E to 10N154e. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers between 1N and 5N from 161E to 166E. Pohnpei lies on the northern edge of this area.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:31 AM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:34 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
1:16 PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
9:21 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Thursday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:18 PM
Sunday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:39 PM	1:07 AM
Thursday	1:38 PM	2:10 AM
Friday	2:42 PM	3:15 AM
Saturday	3:49 PM	4:17 AM
Sunday	4:55 PM	5:15 AM

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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Guam-Narita			
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Guam-Osaka			
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily
Guam-Nagoya			
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Palau			
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5
Palau-Manila			
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7
Narita-Manila			
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Guam			
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7
NW 084	10:40am	3:05pm	Daily
Osaka-Guam			
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Nagoya-Guam			
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
Incheon-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Palau-Guam			
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6
Manila-Palau			
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Nagoya			
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily
Hongkong-Incheon			
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily
Manila-Narita			
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Leadership

By STEPHEN B. SMITH
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Steve B. Smith is the Accreditation, Language Arts, and National Forensic League coordinator for the Public School System Central Office.

There is new leadership on Capital Hill, at PSS. Rita A. Sablan, the new Commissioner is now at the helm and the hopes, expectations, and challenges she has inherited are great.

At a time when funding is low, needs are not low, and ideas as to how to reconcile the two disparate realities are not many; she is tasked with finding the requisite solution. "Hope," as the ancients said, "springs eternal." Hope that our students will commit to achieving what they are capable of achieving, hope that our highly qualified teaching corps will maximize our limited resources, and hope that our parents will continue to support our schools in this time of financial upheaval; these are the hopes our new commissioner will attempt to bring to fruition.

And what may we, parents and citizens, expect in the coming months? What exactly are the expectations that we may realistically entertain? The good news is "a lot"! The bad news is it "ain't gonna be a piece o' cake." PSS strategic priorities absolutely revolve around the resolute determination to see our students succeed. Succeed at what? Succeed in creating a future for themselves that they can be proud of, whether they decide to enter the work force directly upon graduation or continue on to higher education.

The federal government, as related previously in this paper's pages, has mandated very stringent benchmarks to measure success. By 2014 "all" of our students must be proficient or better in all core subject areas, i.e., Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. Our public schools are indeed making great strides in achieving that goal.

And, yes, there are challenges still to be met and overcome. The Commissioner's Office is putting together plans to address these challenges—and they are everybody's challenges—and bringing together talented personnel to guarantee success. And just what are the most urgent challenges facing the district?

Of course it is no great mystery that funding is at dangerously low levels. It is a fact that funding levels today are markedly lower than was the case 10 years ago; conversely, our student population has risen dramatically since that bygone age. Clearly, this is a challenge singular in its magnitude.

The federal government, in spite of a fearfully crashing economy, is not relaxing its demands for student achievement, nor in this writer's opinion should it. The mandates of the No Child Left Behind Act are still very much in place. Our Commissioner, far from wringing her hands, is hard at work to see to it that the district meets, and indeed even exceeds, the goals and objectives set for it.

There is a need for all of our community stakeholders to pull together and to maintain a state of readiness. Readiness to join in the effort to assist our young people, our teachers and administrators, and our Commissioner in fulfilling the promise of this new day. Determination is the key to success; it always has been, it always will be. PSS leadership is committed to the task.

As may seem appropriate, given that this is Super Bowl week, let me close with a quote from the first coach to lead a team to a Super Bowl win, Vince Lombardi: "The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand." The Commissioner and her staff and the teachers and students of the CNMI are so committed.

Stephen B. Smith is the Accreditation, Language Arts, and National Forensic League coordinator for the Public School System Central Office.

Letters to the Editor

Unintended consequences

In these troubling times, we urge (no, beg) government leaders to revisit the Commonwealth Employment Act to correct glaring deficiencies that are bound to leave hundreds of U.S citizens and residents unemployed while their foreign counterparts are gainfully employed during the time from June 1, 2009 until Dec. 31, 2011, otherwise known as the transition period of the law to federalize our immigration and labor laws.

Apparently, either the law itself or its implementing rules and regulations allow for the issuance of two-year permits to nonresident workers. What the law apparently allows also is exemption from the statutory required job vacancy announcements. This essentially means that employers, especially big employers, could renew employees for two years without having to announce the job opening.

These apparent defects in the law would probably have gone unnoticed if jobs were still plentiful as they were in the old days. But with the economy in shambles, exacerbated by failing economies around the world, including even the mighty U.S. economy, the policy of giving out two-year permits is going to come back to haunt government and business leaders alike in that the two-year permits issued between now and June 1, 2009, the implementation date of the federal immigration law, is going to make it practically impossible for any local worker to find work, beginning as of right now and lasting two years hence.

What politically correct excuse can our leaders proffer unemployed U.S. citizens and residents who will more than likely be unable to find a job because his/her foreign counterparts have the jobs locked up in two-year contracts with island employers? Or are we so gullible as to think that there will be more jobs in the post-federalization period and that all residents will then be able to find work? And what will the feds think if we were to ask them for a bailout for these residents and citizens who are rendered unemployed because we have allowed nonresident workers to take precedence over our own citizens and residents. We need to get our collective heads out of the sand and look at the problem that is staring us straight in the eyes.

While professional workers such as doctors, nurses, college professors, chief executive officers in hotels, and others with college degrees are welcome and will most likely be allowed under federalization since their inclusion is consistent with the aims and goals of U.S. immigration policy, Labor should work diligently at this time to ensure that whatever unskilled jobs that are currently available do indeed go to U.S. citizens and residents before they even think about renewing even one more employment contract, much less for a two-year period.

Citizens and residents refuse to believe that it was the intention of the Commonwealth Employment Act to provide jobs to nonresident workers in a shrinking economy, instead of jobless and unemployed citizens and residents.

If the two-year employment contracts and exemption from the statutory required posting of jobs are unintended consequences of the most recent labor legislation, then we beg legislators and government officials to go back to the drawing board pronto to correct the deficiencies so that residents and citizens are not left out in the cold yet again. Over the years, several legislations have been enacted supposedly to give local workers some justice but none has ever been enforced. Thus, to date, resident and citizen workers still do not enjoy the same benefits enjoyed by their nonresident counterparts. Hello, anybody home?

Don't you think it is time that our Legislature and our government did do something for the people? Call your legislator. Call your governor. Let them know what you think.

Silech Terei
Upper Navy Hill, Saipan

Who is going to be the next lieutenant governor?

We have heard so many rumors about more than a handful of people wanting to run as governor in this general election. Some of those who lost in the last election want to run again as if to prove to the people that they could have done better! My biggest puzzle is trying to figure out who and why should one consider running as lieutenant governor.

In case one should run as lieutenant governor, I think one should consider some pointers:

Don't choose as a running mate one who has never tried being poor in his entire life. Choose someone coming from a humble background, but has excelled in figuring things out for himself. This person can then turn to help others for he has already helped himself. In other words, choose a running mate who is a rags-to-riches kind of a fellow. They are cool and down to earth!

Consider diligently our Chamorro/Carolinian humanity and choose a running mate who can relate to both of our CNMI cultures in terms of language, outlook, orientation, and needs. The candidate should also understand other cultures and thrive in a multi-cultural environment that respects all peoples and culture.

It is important to understand and realize that your commander-in-chief should be seasoned! An individual that is not hindered in making unpopular decisions if it is in the best interest of keeping the government afloat! One that is ready to face the fact that it is next to impossible to please everyone. One that will risk failure in order to succeed.

The governor should be a numbers man. He should be known to have dealt wisely in business, and have some degree and experience in international business—a great sense of business acumen, perspicacity, and circumspection. He plans, plants, nourishes, and then carefully harvests the particulars! Do not choose someone who is only a philosopher. Philosophers die but practical minded people continue to move on, reaping and living off of it.

The next lieutenant governor should be like be a farmer who supports his favorite plant (the governor). He sees it is planted and understands that he has to be patient before the plant can start to bear fruit. It will have taken more than four years to see the first buds come out and, in the mean time, he continues to support it by fertilizer, weeding, watering, etc. And the consumers (the people) also understand that they, too, have to be like the lieutenant governor. Why? If you plant a mango tree and you don't see fruits in the first four years, you uproot it and plant over a new seed? And then repeat the process over and over before you finally find out that it takes more than fours years for your plant to actually bear good fruit?

When time is not of the essence, then at least understand that time changes. At 50, I can still vividly recall the easygoing life during the Trust Territory times. We want to continue our carefree style of island living from then and stretch it into the way things should be nowadays. We still want to go picnic whenever it pleases us and on the smallest of occasions we want to celebrate it with a big festive party. And we blow everything out, regardless of whether we will run out of rice and chicken tomorrow for as long as we can have that party. And this is because we are fun loving kind of people and there is nothing wrong with that. But adjustments have to be made, and understanding our surroundings has to be sought. It took me the luxury of time to think deeply and resolve to accept that we as people from this small island nation must begin to act locally by thinking globally! We have to start living in the inevitable circumstances of our global economic system. We are all dead meat if we don't hastily link up to this thing called global economy.

Say for instance my name is Greg, and I have inherited a not-so-profitable business that was entrusted to my care to make it survive. And this form of business is the only commodity store (CUC) where all the people go to fetch their daily bread (electricity). I am Greg and I am ill-informed of the effects of the global economy and I insist on operating the business in such a fashion. How long will the business survive if I should buy a can of Spam for a dollar and retail it at .75 cents? Justification is that the people are used to paying .75 cents for the Spam, therefore I will sell it at that price lest they get angry and shout that I am greedy! How long will Greg's business stay afloat?

Say for instance my name is Ben, and I inherited and was entrusted with the same not-so-profitable business to care and make it survive. I know that I shouldn't sell my Spam at .75 cents because I spent a dollar buying it. So Ben sells his Spam at $1.45 each (45 percent mark-up) just to stay afloat. The people all shout, "Ben, you are greedy!" The people wouldn't pay $1.45 for the Spam but at the same time still overindulge in their happy-go-lucky lifestyle of party hardy everyday and tomorrow, "Can you borrow me cigarette, please?" It is the same basic reason why all basic necessities of life have gone up! Okay, so the price of oil has stabilized a little but does that mean we should sell bottom low and risk the fact that the global economy is still dangerously unreliable? We have to wake up to the tune of practical living in 2009, and not living in the days of the Trust Territory where everything is free or given free by the government. We all have to learn how to count our days, and count our blessings and become good stewards.

Even a bakery these days has to cut down on everything. I am used to buying the standard-size Chamorro cake at Herman's Modern Bakery but I was astonished when I found out that the size of their Chamorro cake has been reduced to more than half the original size but still being sold at practically the same price as the standard ones. Even this family (Herman's Modern Bakery) has made some adjustments in their Chamorro cake just to keep up.

And so has Gov. Ben Fitial. Unpopular as some of his decisions are, any numbers man would not hesitate to do the same if he where to keep things afloat. Gov. Ben Fitial will not just lie back and allow the government to sink if he can help it. You want to be a lieutenant governor? Then choose a hybrid mango tree like Gov. Ben Fitial and begin producing fruits immediately like the no-frequent-power-outages we are now enjoying, aggressive attempts to balance our budget, standing steadfast on our rights for self-government, etc. Please open up and let your eyes envision beyond what it can see, and listen beyond what your ears can hear.

Alexandro "The Colonel" Sablan
Dandan, Saipan

Island Snapshots

GRAND DRAW WINNERS

Rusty M. Loyola (left), operations manager of Coca-Cola Beverage Company Micronesia, Inc. and Jeff Boyer (second right), retail area manager of Shell Marianas, join the Coca-Cola "Spread the Spirit" promo grand drawing winners (from second left) Mike R. Cruz Jr., Michiyo, Takeshi and Kairi Tabuchi, Mohammed Alauddin, Angeline Joseph, Gloria V. Silvestre, Ritchell Q. Sublemente, and Rodney M. Reyes..

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ISLAND MASONS

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Officers, members, and guests of Saipan's Free And Accepted Masons gather for a group photo during Saturday's installation of their elected and appointed officers at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom.

GRAND PRIZE WINNER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eight-year-old Kairi Tabuchi receives the key to his parents' brand new XT 225 Yamaha motorcycle, from Peter Tenorio (right), Yamaha representative for Joeten Motor Company Inc., and Gerry Hemley (center), assistant for operations at Coca-Cola Beverage Company Micronesia, Inc. The grand prize in the Coca-Cola's "Spread the Spirit" promo was received on Kairi's behalf by his parents, (from left) Michiyo and Takeshi Tabuchi.

SHINY NEW SCOOTERS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Angeline Joseph, winner of Coke's "Spread the Spirit" baby grand prize, a PGO Metro Buddy scooter from Coca-Cola Beverage Company Micronesia, Inc., and $500 in Shell V-Power gift certificates, receives her winnings from Rusty Loyola (left) operations manager of CCBM and Jeff Boyer, retail area manager of Shell Marianas.

WEDDED BLISS

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Happy wedding anniversary to Fred and CherryAnn Castro! Wishing you many more years together. May God bless you both. We love you!" Greetings come from your family on Saipan, in Arizona and Texas.

CARD MAKERS

KRISTI EATON

Children of soldiers currently deployed abroad make Valentine's Day cards for their parents, with the help of some Echo Company soldiers Saturday at PIC.

LOTS OF SHELL V-POWER FUEL

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jeff Boyer (second left) presents $500 V-Power Fuel in gift certificates to the grand prize winner of XT 225 Yamaha motorcycle, Kairi Tabuchi. They are joined by (from left) Rusty Loyola, operations manager of Coca-Cola Beverage Company (Micronesia), Inc. and Kairi's parents, Michiyo and Takeshi Tabuchi.

GUBERNATORIAL TANDEM

Former Gov. Juan N. Babauta, center, and Board of Education member Galvin Deleon S. Guerrero, right, tout the combination of the energy of the youth and the wisdom of experience as they declared their candidacy for governor and lieutenant governor in the November elections. They are joined on stage by Ed Guerrero, left, chairman of the committee to elect Juan and Galvin; Babauta's wife Charlene, second left; and Deleon Guerrero's wife Velma, second right, on Saturday night in Gualo Rai.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Business

Banks: Federal government gives mixed message

NEW YORK (AP)—Banks that are being scolded by the government for not lending are blaming a new obstacle: The government itself.

Fearing more bank failures, federal regulators are forcing institutions to hold more money in reserve and scrutinizing loans. But bank executives complain that the extra oversight thwarts their ability to quickly pump billions of bailout dollars into the ailing economy.

Banks say they are caught in a frustrating Catch-22: How can they make more loans when creditworthy borrowers are scarce, their balance sheets are saddled with bad debt and regulators are hounding them to horde cash?

"We want to lend, but the regulators are flat-out telling us, 'Get your capital up.' Then there's Congress telling you to lend it all out," said Greg Melvin, a board member at FNB Corp., a Hermitage, Penn.-based bank that got $100 million in bailout money.

"Two arms of the government are saying exactly the opposite thing—it's ridiculous," added Melvin, who is also chief investment officer at investment firm C.S. McKee.

Regulators say they are only being careful, and they deny slowing lending.

"We don't believe that prudence and increased lending are mutually exclusive—they go hand in hand," said Andrew Gray, a spokesman for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

The tit-for-tat marks the latest problem for the government's financial bailout, known as the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP.

The government rolled out the $700 billion bailout late last year, hoping that injecting money into banks would expand lending and ease the credit crisis. But in a survey released Monday, the Federal Reserve said many banks are making it harder to get credit cards, mortgages and other loans.

Regulators have long required banks to keep a minimum level of capital on their books to stay in business. It was typically a figure equal to 10 percent of assets.

But as the financial crisis has worsened, many banks say they have been told to keep capital equal to at least 12 percent of assets. At the same time, regulators are combing through banks' loan applications and flagging those considered too risky.

FHB continues consistent earnings growth

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank posted net income of $55.9 million for the fourth quarter of 2008, an increase of 8.8 percent over the same period of 2007. For the year, the bank earned a record $222.5 million, a 7.5 percent increase over 2007, according to an announcement yesterday by Don Horner, First Hawaiian Bank chairman and chief executive officer.

"2008 marked a major milestone: the bank's 150th anniversary. Over the years, our consistent and prudent strategies have served us well. I am appreciative of our employees and their customer commitment and performance. Despite the economic challenges, the bank remains well positioned to continue to provide our customers with both solid financial solutions and security," Horner said.

For the 12 months ending Dec. 31, 2008, First Hawaiian achieved the following:

Total Revenues: increased by 9.1 percent to $680.4 million.

Deposits: were $9.4 billion, up 3.1 percent.

Loans and Leases: increased 20.8 percent to $7.9 billion.

Total Assets: of $12.8 billion, an increase of 1.8 percent over the previous year.

Non-Performing Assets as a percentage of total assets remained one of the lowest in the nation at 0.10 percent.

In commenting on the company's strong financial performance, Horner also stated, "our loan growth underscores the bank's commitment to our communities we serve and is a testimony of the continued confidence we have in the future."

During the year, First Hawaiian announced that it had become the first local bank to accept debit and credit card purchase transactions through China Union Pay, China's national credit card brand. The bank signed an agreement with Mitsubishi UFJ Trust and Banking Corporation to provide corporate trustee, successor trustee and estate settlement services for Japanese citizens. The bank also partnered with Orbitz to enhance its Priority Rewards debit and credit cards with discount travel and cash rewards. Also during the year, First Hawaiian constructed and opened a new larger, landmark branch in Tamuning on Guam.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com) with $12.8 billion assets, was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. It has 58 branches in Hawaii, three on Guam and two on Saipan. First Hawaiian's holding company, BancWest Corporation (www.bancwestcorp.com), is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BNP Paribas, a leading global financial services institution. ***(PR)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Consumer spending falls again, drags down economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Consumers slashed spending for an unprecedented sixth straight month in December, feeding the already painful recession as millions of households opted to save rather than buy. The drop in consumer spending, the economy's key driver, means little help is in sight for struggling retailers, homebuilders and automakers. The fallout spread Monday when Macy's Inc. announced it would cut 7,000 jobs, almost 4 percent of its work force, and take other belt-tightening measures to cope with the drop in sales. "It is going to be hard to get the economy going again," said Nigel Gault, chief U.S. economist for IHS Global Insight of Lexington, Mass.

Oil falls 4 percent on more bad economic news

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP)—Oil prices tumbled nearly 4 percent Monday in a volatile trading day fraught with more bad economic news, including thousands of job cuts by Macy's department store. Light, sweet crude for March delivery fell $1.60 to settle at $40.08 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange after tumbling at one point to $39.83. Consumers have cut spending on everything from clothes to gasoline, and those cuts are showing up in falling crude prices and tumbling sales for retailers. Macy's Inc. said it would slash 7,000 jobs, or 4 percent of its work force, less than a month after announcing it would close 11 stores.

FTC accuses firms of delaying generic drug launch

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators accused Solvay Pharmaceuticals and three generic drugmakers on Monday of illegally agreeing to keep cheaper versions of a lucrative hormone-boosting drug off the market. The lawsuit from the Federal Trade Commission alleges that Brussels, Belgium-based Solvay agreed to share its profits with the generic firms provided they did not launch their low-cost versions until 2015. Androgel, a gel-based testosterone drug, is Solvay's best-selling product with U.S. sales over $300 million. Instead of competing against Solvay, the FTC states that the generic companies agreed to help market and manufacture Androgel.

Nation

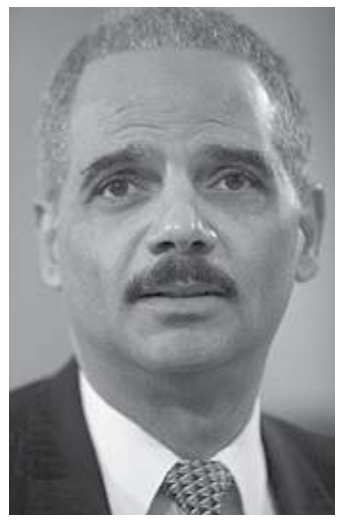
Senate confirms Holder as first black AG

WASHINGTON (AP)—Eric Holder won Senate confirmation Monday as the nation's first African-American attorney general, after supporters from both parties touted his dream resume and easily overcame Republican concerns over his commitment to fight terrorism and his willingness to back the right to keep and bear arms.

The vote was 75-21.

Holder's chief supporter, Sen. Patrick Leahy, said the confirmation was a fulfillment of civil rights leader Martin Luther King's dream that everyone would be judged by the content of their character.

"Come on the right side of history," said Leahy, D-Vt., chairman of the Judiciary Committee.



AP

In this Jan. 15, 2009 file photo, Attorney General-designate Eric Holder testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Holder becomes the only black in President Barack Obama's Cabinet. Three other African-Americans were named to top administration positions, but are not Cabinet secretaries.

Holder was a federal prosecutor, judge and the No. 2 Justice Department official in the Clinton administration. Even his critics agreed that Holder was well-qualified, but they questioned his positions and independence.

The debate turned partisan in its first moments, when Leahy, expressed anger that a few Republicans demanded a pledge from Holder that he wouldn't prosecute intelligence agents who participated in harsh interrogations.

Officials say Obama to nominate Gregg for Cabinet

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama plans to nominate Sen. Judd Gregg as commerce secretary on Tuesday, the White House confirmed on the eve of the announcement as the New Hampshire Republican disclosed an apparent deal that would keep his seat out of Democratic hands.

"I have made it clear to the Senate leadership on both sides of the aisle and to the governor that I would not leave the Senate if I felt my departure would cause a change in the makeup of the Senate," Gregg said Monday in a statement. The White House confirmed the Gregg choice on the condition of anonimity because the announcement had not yet been made.

New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch confirmed the "understanding," stopping just short of promising to appoint a Republican or an independent to serve out the remaining two years of Gregg's term.

Daschle apologizes, fights to salvage nomination

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fighting to salvage his Cabinet nomination, Tom Daschle pleaded his case Monday evening in a closed meeting with former Senate colleagues after publicly apologizing for failing to pay more than $120,000 in taxes. President Barack Obama said he was "absolutely" sticking with his nominee for health secretary, and a key senator added an important endorsement.

The White House both underscored the magnitude of the problem and tried to downplay it in the space of seven words. "Nobody's perfect," said press secretary Robert Gibbs. "It was a serious mistake. ..."

Nobody was predicting defeat for Daschle's nomination as secretary of health and human services, but it was proving an unsavory pill to swallow for senators who only last week confirmed Timothy Geithner as treasury secretary despite his separate tax-payment problems. It's an issue that strikes a nerve among lawmakers' constituents who are struggling with their own serious money problems.

FEMA gets decent marks for its ice storm response

EDDYVILLE, Ky. (AP)—In the first real test of the Obama administration's ability to respond to a disaster, Kentucky officials are giving the federal government good marks for its response to a deadly ice storm.

Yet more than 300,000 residents remained without power Monday and some areas had yet to see aid workers nearly a week after the storm, a fact not lost on some local authorities.

"We haven't seen FEMA. They haven't been here," said Jaime Green, a spokeswoman for the emergency operations center in Lyon County, about 95 miles northwest of Nashville, Tenn.

Federal authorities insisted they responded as soon as the state asked for help and promised to keep providing whatever aid was necessary.

FEMA has been under the microscope since the Bush administration's botched response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, which Barack Obama and other Democrats made a favorite topic on the presidential campaign trail. FEMA was reorganized and strengthened after that, and it has avoided the onslaught of negative feedback Katrina generated.

The agency hasn't been tested the same way it was after the hurricane, however.

Texas mother convicted in 2-year-old girl's death

GALVESTON, Texas (AP)—A mother was convicted of capital murder Monday for the death of her 2-year-old daughter, who was whipped with belts and flung onto a tile floor to teach her manners, before her body was dumped in a box in Galveston Bay. Jurors deliberated less than two hours before finding Kimberly Trenor guilty. She received an automatic sentence of life without parole. Prosecutors did not seek the death penalty.

"Justice has been served today. Today it's about Riley"—the victim, Galveston County District Attorney Kurt Sistrunk said after the verdict.

Trenor and her husband, Royce Clyde Zeigler II, were accused of killing Riley Ann Sawyers while disciplining her in July 2007. Prosecutors said Trenor and Zeigler beat Riley with belts, dunked her head in cold water and threw her onto a tile floor, fracturing her skull. Zeigler's capital murder trial will be held later.

After Riley's death, the couple stuffed her body in a plastic box and hid it at their suburban Houston home before dumping it in Galveston Bay, according to authorities.

Sheriff's investigators dubbed the toddler "Baby Grace" during the weeks they worked to identify her remains, found by a fisherman. Many of those investigators were in the courtroom Monday and cried as the verdict was read.

Asia

Pakistan police seek seized UN worker

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—Gunmen seized an American U.N. worker as he rode to work, shooting and killing his driver, U.N. and Pakistani authorities said. His Land Cruiser was found rammed against a wall, punctured by at least one bullet hole.

The United Nations expressed "extreme shock and dismay" at the rare attack Monday in a region that has largely been spared the al-Qaida and Taliban insurgency wracking much of northwestern Pakistan.

The government called the abduction of John Solecki, head of the U.N. refugee office in the southwestern city of Quetta, a "dastardly terrorist act." But police said it was not clear whether Islamist militants, criminals seeking a ransom payment or members of a regional separatist group were responsible.

Quetta is the capital of Baluchistan province, which partly borders Afghanistan. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees has worked for three decades in the region helping hundreds of thousands of Afghans fleeing violence in their homeland.

Police increased patrols and security checks along roads leading to Afghanistan, some 60 miles (95 kilometers) away, fearing Solecki may be taken there.

Meanwhile in the northwestern part of the nation, at least 35 Islamist militants were killed in an overnight operation in Swat Valley, which has been increasingly overrun with insurgents, Pakistan's military said in a statement Tuesday.

Security forces used helicopter gunships and artillery in the attack, the army said.

Swat was once a popular tourist destination, but about two years ago militants began a violent campaign to enforce Taliban-style Islam there. The state responded with force, but residents say militants increasingly hold sway.

Baluchistan, where Solecki was kidnapped, has largely been spared the al-Qaida and Taliban insurgency in northwestern Pakistan, where several foreigners have been attacked or kidnapped in recent months. In August, Lynne Tracy, the top U.S. diplomat in the northwest, narrowly survived an attack on her vehicle in Peshawar by suspected militants. In November, also in Peshawar, gunmen shot and killed American aid worker Stephen Vance.

Official: NKorea gearing up to fire missile

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea appears to be gearing up to test-fire a missile, a South Korean official said Tuesday, and reports said it could be a long-range weapon capable of reaching the western United States.

The move comes amid heightened tensions on the Korean peninsula, with the North declaring last week that it was abandoning all pacts designed to prevent hostilities with the South. The two Koreas technically remain at war because their three-year conflict ended in 1953 with a truce, not a peace treaty.

"There are signs North Korea is preparing for a missile launch," the South Korean intelligence official told The Associated Press. He declined to give any further details and spoke on condition of anonymity, citing the sensitivity of the issue.

However, the Yonhap news agency said intelligence authorities have spotted a train carrying a long, cylinder-shaped object—believed to be a long-range missile—heading to Dongchang-ni, a new missile launch site on North Korea's west coast.

The intelligence indicates the missile is likely a long-range Taepodong-2 model, and the North could finish its preparations for a missile launch within one or two months, Yonhap said, citing unidentified officials.

The Japanese newspaper Sankei also reported on preparations for a possible Taepodong-2 launch, citing several unnamed Japanese government officials.

In Tokyo, officials at the Japanese defense and foreign ministries could not be reached for comment.

South Korea's Defense Ministry declined to confirm Yonhap report.

The Taepodong-2—considered the North's most advanced rocket—has a range of more than 4,160 miles (6,700 kilometers), putting the western U.S. into striking range, according to the South Korean government.

North Korea tested the engine of a long-range missile last year, according to U.S. and South Korean officials.

North Korea's clandestine missile program has been a key regional concern, along with its nuclear weapons program.

In 2006, the North launched a Taepodong-2 missile from its east coast site in Musudan-ni. The test was considered a failure because the rocket plunged into the ocean shortly after liftoff.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Images show many dead, wounded in Sri Lanka war

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—A mother and father lay on the floor, their two young children cradled between them. Floral pillows and other bedding were strewn about: They were apparently sleeping when an artillery shell hit their makeshift shelter in northern Sri Lanka, instantly killing them all. This photo, taken Jan. 23, along with other pictures and video footage taken last week were given to The Associated Press by independent observers. They offer a rare glimpse of the growing toll the civil war has taken on the estimated 250,000 civilians trapped in the all-but-sealed conflict zone. The images show that despite repeated government denials, civilians are being killed and maimed in the fighting. Some of the victims were attacked inside a government-declared "safe zone" in rebel-held territory and the wounded were brought to the nearby Puthukkudiyiruppu hospital, which itself has come under attack.

Dalai Lama out of hospital

NEW DELHI (AP)—The Dalai Lama was released from a hospital in India's capital after doctors determined that minor pain in his arms was caused by a pinched nerve, his spokesman said Tuesday. The 73-year-old exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, who underwent three hours of medical tests Monday, was feeling better following a good night's sleep in a hotel and would return immediately to his northern Indian headquarters, said Tenzin Takhla. The Dalai Lama has had a number of health problems in recent months that have interrupted his busy schedule of international travel to teach Buddhism and highlight the Tibetan struggle for more autonomy under Chinese rule. He has no plans to change his scheduled visit to Italy and Germany, which begins Feb.8, said Takhla.

Indonesian navy picks up boat people from Myanmar

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's navy picked up 198 boat people from Myanmar in critical condition after they were forced to sea by authorities in Thailand and drifted for three weeks without an engine, an official said Tuesday. Twenty-two others died on the crossing from Thailand after fleeing the military dictatorship in Myanmar, navy officer Tedi Sutardi told The Associated Press, citing witness accounts. Their small wooden boat was discovered by fisherman Monday off Aceh's coast in northern Sumatra and towed to shore. The 40-foot (12-meter) vessel had no engine and the passengers had run out of food and water, Sutardi said. "They were standing on the boat for 21 days because there was no space to sit," he said. "It is a miracle they survived."

World

Israel rules out Hamas contacts

HERZLIYA, Israel (AP)—Israel's foreign minister threatened Monday to keep hitting Hamas as long as it attacks Israel, ruling out negotiations with the Islamic rulers of Gaza just eight days before national elections in which she is running for prime minister. Tzipi Livni's tough statement came as a Hamas delegation went to Cairo for talks Tuesday with Egyptian mediators on a long-term truce with Israel, building on a two-week informal ceasefire that followed Israel's bruising offensive in Gaza.

Events Monday underlined the urgency of the talks in Cairo. An Israeli missile hit a car in the town of Rafah, killing a Palestinian militant, hours after warplanes bombed the nearby Gaza-Egypt border seeking to destroy tunnels that Hamas uses to smuggle in weapons and supplies.

The Israeli military said the target of the airstrike was a car carrying militants who fired mortars at Israel. Palestinian officials said a militant in the car was killed and another was wounded, along with two bystanders.

The attacks were retaliation for more than a dozen rockets and mortar shells fired from Gaza on Sunday. The fire decreased considerably Monday, with the military saying that two mortar shells exploded at a border crossing in southern Gaza during the day.

In Cairo, Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said the group, which calls for the destruction of Israel, would make its decision about a truce after a final round of talks with Egyptian mediators expected on Tuesday. The Hamas delegation arrived in Cairo late Monday night.

He said the delegation would listen to "the summary of the Egyptian contacts and talks that have been conducted with the Israelis or other concerned parties." Israel and Hamas refuse to deal directly with each other.

AP

Israel's Foreign Minister and Kadima party leader Tzipi Livni speaks during the 9th Herzliya Conference, in Herzliya, Israel, Monday, Feb. 2, 2009.

Dismay as Gadhafi chosen to lead African Union

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—Moammar Gadhafi of Libya was elected Monday as leader of the African Union, a position long sought by the eccentric dictator who wants to push his oil-rich nation into the international mainstream after years of isolation.

Gadhafi, once ostracized by the West for sponsoring terrorism, has been trying to increase both Libya's global stature and its regional influence—mediating African conflicts, sponsoring efforts to spread Islam on the continent and pushing for the creation of a single African government.

Still, some African leaders offered tepid praise for the choice of the strongman who grabbed power in a 1969 coup. Rights groups called him a poor model for Africa at a time when democratic gains are being reversed in countries such as Mauritania and Guinea.

He attended the session dressed in a gold-embroidered green robe and flanked by seven extravagantly dressed men who said they are the "traditional kings of Africa." Gadhafi told about 20 of his fellow heads of state that that he would work to unite the continent into "the United States of Africa."

Gadhafi arrived at the summit Sunday with the seven men, one carrying a 4-foot gold staff, and caused a stir when security officials did not admit them because each delegation gets only four floor passes. All seven "kings" were seated behind Gadhafi when he accepted the chairmanship.

"I think the coming time will be a time of serious work and a time of action and not words," he said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Protester hurls shoe at Chinese PM during UK visit

CAMBRIDGE, England (AP)—A protester hurled abuse and then a shoe at China's premier Monday while he delivered a speech on the global economy at Cambridge University. The protester leapt up from his seat near the back of a crowded auditorium, blew a whistle and yelled that Premier Wen Jiabao was a "dictator" before throwing the shoe toward the stage. "How can this university prostitute itself with this dictator here, how can you listen...to him unchallenged," the man shouted. Like the now-famous incident when an Iraqi reporter threw his shoes at former President George W. Bush in December, the gray athletic shoe missed its intended target. China's media were silent on the Wen protest Tuesday, even though news organizations were quick to report the incident involving Bush.

Iraqi military puts Anbar province under curfew

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's military clamped a vehicle ban Monday on the Sunni-dominated province of Anbar after tribal sheiks sent gunmen into the streets claiming Sunni rivals linked to the Shiite-led government stole votes in last weekend's elections. The brewing crisis threatens to trigger new violence in Anbar, the vast, mostly desert territory that had been center-stage in the Sunni insurgency until tribes there turned against al-Qaida in Iraq two years ago. Anbar was one of 14 of the country's 18 provinces in which Iraqis chose members of ruling councils, which in turn select governors. Saturday's elections took place without major violence and were hailed by President Barack Obama as a major achievement on the country's path to stability after nearly six years of war. But U.S. officials had said before the balloting that the ultimate test of the election was whether the Iraqi public perceived the outcome as fair.

Campus Life

Representing students at the PSS Board

Newly appointed PSS student representative to the Board of Education, Francine Therese Roberto Babauta, shares her thoughts about the challenging tasks that she will assume for public school students. This 16-year-old is a junior at Saipan Southern High School and is the junior class treasurer.

She is also a part of the National Honor Society and the Manta Ray Girls Varsity Basketball team. For her, becoming the overall student rep to the board is a lifetime achievement.

The youth leader loves doing community service as she believes that the happiness that comes with giving is 10 times better than the happiness that comes with getting.

Q: How did you welcome the news that you're going to represent the whole PSS students to the Board of Education?

Answer: One afternoon last summer, I was contacted by my principal, Mr. Peter Le'au to report to school at 7:30am the next morning. It was Mssrs. Le'au and Garrison that first informed me that they were recommending my name to be the Student Representative to the State Board of Education. I was ecstatic to hear it first from them and I immediately sent a text to my friends and parents. After I got appointed by the Governor, I was featured (I believe it was by you) in the *Marianas Variety* and then in the *Saipan Tribune* for my swearing in. For both times I was interviewed, I believe that was the first time I really let the news out.

Q: What are your goals and missions for this job?

Answer: My goal is to do my best in representing every public school student in the CNMI, and after marching with my fellow colleagues to success, finally reach it. My mission is to live up to the full potential of my position and help my colleagues improve education here in the CNMI. Also, to make sure that our (the youth) voice is always heard before the leaders on Capital Hill make their decisions.

KRISTI EATON

Francine Therese Roberto Babauta is sworn in as the new PSS student representative to the Board of Education by board chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita. Looking on are Babauta's parents, Franklin and Selina Babauta.

Q: What do you think are the good programs that you may initiate in the public schools that would help teens and youth in and out of school?

Answer: All the programs that improve learning we have now in the classrooms are useful. The most recent program that has been initiated is the Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) that seeks to improve student achievement in all ways. Through these frequent summits, we are able to reach out to all students whether they are youth leaders or at-risk students. Not only do I like this program, but a lot of students like it as well.

Q: How's the feeling on your first day and reporting to BOE?

Answer: At first, I felt nervous because I couldn't believe I was actually at the PSS Central Office, about to represent every single public student in the CNMI from grades 1-12. But I got over it.

Q: What legacy you want to leave with PSS students?

Answer: To me, the phrases leaving a legacy behind and setting a precedent can be interpreted in very different ways. I would like to be able to help the Board as we strive to create a perfect public school system. And that is where every student just can't wait to go to school. I don't know if this perfect system can ever really exist, but that doesn't mean I shouldn't try, or that it's even wrong to try. I hope this mentality passes down to all the other student reps after me, because this striving for perfection only brings out the best in us and will make us want to work harder every single time. I feel like this is something worth believing in.

Q: How did your family welcome your new task?

Answer: My family is very supportive of me. They understand that this task can take up a lot of my time, and they believe that I can do this. Because of that, I am forever grateful for them.

GHIS students reap awards again

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Golden Harvest International School students pose after a victorious performance at the PGFC competition held at the Dandan Elementary School on Jan. 24, 2009.

The PGFC held at the Dandan Elementary School on Jan. 24, 2009, was the scene of another victory for the talented students of the Golden Harvest International School. With the support of parents and mentors, the students were able to win in the different events.

3-5 DIVISION

Humorous Interpretation B:
1st place- Emmanuel Cobacha
Dramatic Interpretation A:
1st place- Geuel Christian Villacrusis
Humorous Interpretation A:
2nd place- Stephen Seth Alonzo
Duo A:
1st place- Shekinah Grace Armea, Riselle Iris Leong
4th place- Tiffany Madlambayan, Isa Belle Seman
Duo B:
1st place- Stevie Jocelyn Jeter, Shane Cobacha
Choral Speaking B:
1st place- Shekinah Grace Armea, Stevie Jocelyn Jeter, Carla Diaz, Riselle Iris Leong, Shane Cobacha
5th place- Tifffany Maglambayan, Cialene De Llamas, Isa Belle Seman, Stephen Seth Alonzo, Geuel Christian Villacrusis

K-2 DIVISION

Duo A:
1st place- Jordan Towai, Ramhae Awit
2nd place- Kris Angelo Talens, Fernand Ramos
3rd place- Marione Corpuz, Heleina Bautista
Duo B:
1st place- Faith Bocago, Daphne Cruzat
4th place- Ivy Leong, En Ming Cacdac
Humorous Interpretation A:
5th place- Raesyl Solis
Humorous Interpretation B:
1st place- Faith Bocago
Dramatic Interpretation A:
1st place- Nicole Santos
2nd place- Alfie Madlambayan
Dramatic Interpretation B:
2nd place- Daphne Cruzat
5th place- Aldraine Galang
Choral Speaking A:
2nd place- Jordan Towai, Maverick Guiao, Renz Fauni, Princess Batallones, Liezel Prado
3rd place- Victoria Nicole Santos, Uzziel Cobacha, Ramhae Awit
5th place- Allan Tzady Calangi, Kris Angelo Talens, Ronald Fuellas, Danielle Pagsinohin, Fernand Ramos

WINNERS' LIST

The following is the list of winners of the Grace Christian Academy at the Math Court Competition held Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009, at Dandan Elementary School.

FIRST GRADE

Arvin Dayao – 1st place Data, Stats and Probability
2nd place Geometry and Measurement
Caryl Andrei Batenga – 1st place Data, Stats and Measurement
Jim Michael Ham – 1st place Data, Stats and Probability
Martin Pangilinan – 2nd place Data, Stats and Probability
Matt Jason Moran – 2nd place Data, Stats and Probability
Tae Yong Kim – 3rd place Geometry and Measurement
Robert Hanrey Schorr – 4th place Data, Stats and Probability

SECOND GRADE

Claudilyn Lacbayo – 1st place Geometry and Measurement
Jasmine Phan – 2nd place Geometry and Measurement
Jolina Villanueva – 2nd place Geometry and Measurement

THIRD GRADE

Peter Luis Camacho – 1st place Geometry and Measurement
1st place Data, Stats and Probability
Art Matthew Mamaril – 2nd place Data, Stats and Probability

FOURTH GRADE

Aileen Camille Dimaano – 1st place Geometry and Measurement
Kenichi Shirata – 1st place Data, Stats and Probability
3rd place Geometry and Measurement
Joseph Seo – 3rd place Geometry and Measurement
Abigail Deang – 3rd place Data, Stats and Probability

FIFTH GRADE

Neil Conti – 1st place Geometry and Measurement
1st place Data, Stats and Probability
Jasmine Gortayo – 1st place Data, Stats and Probability
2nd place Geometry and Measurement
Ezra Cervera – 1st place Geometry and Measurement
4th place Data, Stats and Probability
Samuel Seo – 1st place Geometry and Measurement
Camille Masilungan – 3rd place Data, Stats and Probability

CAMPUS BULLETIN

MMAC meeting today

The Marianas March Against Cancer Committee will be having its next committee meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2009, at 12pm. This meeting will take place at Subway in Gualo Rai. For more information regarding this event, you may email Catherine Attao (attao20@yahoo.com), Chris Concepcion (chrisaconcepcion@gmail.com) or visit the website at www.ccamarianas.org. You may also call 682-0050. ***(PR)***

Oleai Elementary School PTSA meeting

The PTSA officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School students that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009 6:15pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Hopwood events

Feb. 6: 2nd quarter report card day from 2:30-5:30pm at your child's homeroom. On this same day, it will be half-day for students; dismissal time is 12:30pm. Lunch will be 11:30-12:30pm.
Feb. 13: Awarding ceremony for 1st Semester accomplishments. Parents of our students are welcome to witness the event at 1pm at our stage area.

KagES 2nd Quarter Report Card Day

This is to inform the parent and guardians of Kagman Elementary School that the 2nd Quarter Report Card Day distribution will be held on Friday, Feb. 6, 2009, from 2:30-4:30pm, in your children's respective homeroom teacher's classroom. Parents and guardians are highly encouraged to make the time and meet with your child's homeroom teacher in order to be informed about your child's progress during the 2nd Quarter Period. Your parental involvement in your child's academic progress in school will also have a positive impact on his or her success during this school year 2008-2009. Once again we are looking forward in seeing you make time for your child's 2nd quarter report card, and we appreciate your continued support.

MCS garage sale set

The Mount Carmel School PTO will hold a garage sale on Feb. 16, 2009, Monday (President's Day), from 7am to 12pm at the MCS Cafeteria. Slots are available for rent. If you are interested in selling items at this event, contact Carlyn at 664-9022 or 483-9682 or carlynbodig@hotmail.com. ***(PR)***

Life & Style

Walker Evans' postcard collection on display

NEW YORK (AP)—Long before he picked up the camera and became a pioneer of American documentary photography, Walker Evans began collecting the colorized photo postcards that were a staple of early 1900s five-and-dime stores.

A new exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art looks at the celebrated photographer through the lens of his remarkable collection of more than 9,000 postcards amassed over a 60-year period beginning in 1915 when he was a boy of 12.

"Walker Evans and the Picture Postcard," which opens Tuesday, focuses on 750 of the postcards that Evans, an inveterate collector, said "inadvertently captured the very essence of American daily city and town life."

The first exhibit to focus on the photographer as collector, the show demonstrates the postcard's indelible effect on Evans' own work. The striking similarity of a postcard alongside his own image of a street scene in Morgan City, La., makes this connection abundantly clear.

"On the most simple level, the postcard is this democratic form," said Jeff Rosenheim, the show's curator and an Evans scholar. "It shows in a simple, unvarnished, artless way the generic realities of local life—the small-town Main Street, the local bank, the park."

Rosenheim said Evans would borrow this "straightforward, mostly frontal style" for his own photography, producing "documents that record the scene with an economy of means and with simple respect."

The Met acquired all of Evans' postcards in 1994 along with all of his papers and negatives. The exhibit features primarily those produced before World War II, before postcards were made from original full-color photographs.

AP

Beachgoers are shown in a rack of postcards, one of 9,000 such cards amassed by American photographer Walker Evans (1903-1975) that are part of the Metropolitcan Museum of Art's exhibition "Walker Evans and the Picture Postcard," as seen in New York, Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009.

In the first room, patrons come face-to-face with 360 tightly arranged postcards of buildings, monuments and streetscapes from nearly every state. They're grouped alphabetically; some even sparkle with glitter. New York is represented by the most cards, with scenes from every borough of New York City, where Evans lived most of his life.

The rest of the exhibition is arranged by subject, following Evans' own methodical system of categories: Street Scenes, Summer Hotels, Fancy Architecture, Railroad Stations, Monuments, Beach Scenes, Bridges, Trains and Curiosities.

Postcards first appeared around 1900 as Americans increasingly began pursuing travel as a leisure activity. Wildly popular, they were black-and-white photos taken by anonymous local photographers that were colorized and printed in Germany.

An illustrated book that accompanies the exhibition states that in 1903, the U.S. postal service handled a staggering 700 million postcards, and nearly 250,000 on a typical summer day in Coney Island in 1905.

Evans collected almost every kind of postcard there was, from humorous ones to catastrophic scenes of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. He asked family and friends to contribute to his collection, and even asked them to return the postcards he mailed to them.

He was drawn to the simple views of American life presented in the postcards, such as a row of wheat elevators in North Dakota or a factory in Keene, N.H., with beautiful lettering on the facade. The largest subject category in Evan's collection is Street Scenes, which he called "a veritable catalog of the American experience."

"I believe that he had the ability in his own work to see the present as if it were the past and to create a body of work that stands the test of time, and I think he got that from the postcard," Rosenheim said.

A rare set of 12 postcard-format gelatin silver prints are among the few Evans images in the exhibition. He created them by recropping the large format negatives he made for the New Deal's Farm Security Administration. It was the only time he turned his photographs into postcards.

Born in 1903 in St. Louis, Mo., Evans is best known for his 1935-1937 FSA prints of migrant farmers and a series of photos on south Alabama sharecroppers during the Depression. The latter photos were published in 1941 as a book, "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men," with text by James Agee. He also worked as a photographer for Fortune magazine for many years, and was well known for his images of New York City's subway riders, neighborhoods and buildings.

Evans, who died in 1975, frequently wrote and lectured on his postcard collection. The exhibition features two of his essays on the subject for Fortune magazine, in 1948 and 1962, and an illustrated transcript of his 1964 Yale University lecture on the picture postcards and the documentary tradition.

"Walker Evans and the Picture Postcard" runs through May 25.

AP

In this file photo from April 25, 2005, Lonnie G. Bunch is profiled against a youth exhibit at the entrance of the Chicago Historical Society in Chicago.

6 teams compete to design black history museum

WASHINGTON (AP)—Six design teams—all with prominent black principals—will compete for two months to design a national black history museum on the National Mall, the Smithsonian Institution announced Thursday.

The National Museum of African American History and Culture will likely be the last new museum building added to the grounds between the Washington Monument and Capitol. The design finalists have created structures that include the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco and an expanded Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York.

Museum Director Lonnie Bunch, who will lead a jury to make the final selection, is looking for a design that "speaks about resiliency and optimism and spirituality," he said.

In early April, the six design proposals will go on display at the Smithsonian Castle for the public to help choose a winner by April 10. It will be the first time the Smithsonian has sought public comment in a museum design competition, spokeswoman Linda St. Thomas said.

The museum did not require design teams to include black architects. But the groups had to show an appreciation of black history and culture. During the design phase, "they've got to embrace and wrestle with the African American experience," Bunch said.

One practical question: "How do you build something right by the Washington Monument and the White House?" Bunch said.

The building, set to open in 2015, would be the closest museum to the towering marble obelisk and is to be the first museum on the Mall to be certified as environmentally friendly. Each design team will receive a $50,000 stipend for the competition.

Another prominent black history project in Washington has drawn scrutiny for its design. Organizers of the planned Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial have been criticized for selecting a Chinese sculptor to create the central King statue, though the primary architect for the project is an African American.

For the last museum built on the Mall, the National Museum of the American Indian, there was no design competition. The Smithsonian hired a Canadian architect with roots in the Blackfoot tribe in 1993 but fired him about five years later after a dispute with his U.S. partners over money. Smithsonian planners said they are trying to avoid such problems by hiring a collaborative group.

"This is a long-term relationship and national museums take a long time to develop," said Sheryl Kolasinski, director of Smithsonian planning and project management. "We're selecting an architectural team as much as a design."

Congress has pledged to provide half of the museum's $500 million cost, with private fundraising to cover the balance.

The finalists for the project are:

- Devrouax & Purnell Architects/Planners, P.C, and Pei Cobb Freed & Partners Architects, LLP
- Diller Scofidio + Renfro in association with KlingStubbins
- Foster + Partners/URS
- Freelon Adjaye Bond in association with SmithGroup
- Moody Nolan Inc. in association with Antoine Predock Architect PC
- Moshe Safdie and Associates Inc. in association with Sultan Campbell Britt & Associates

Streisand talks 'Yentl,' new CD and politics

AP

In this image released by MGM, Barbra Streisand is shown in a scene from, "Yentl."

NEW YORK (AP)—Barbra Streisand remembers the buzz generated before she started filming the musical "Yentl," and it wasn't particularly good.

Despite her superstar status and two Oscars (one best actress trophy, another for composing) she recalls hearing negative comments about whether she could pull off the Herculean task of starring, directing, co-writing and producing the period piece about a Jewish woman who disguises herself as a man to pursue an education.

"Women being actresses, somehow, in certain people's minds, in executives' minds, it's a frivolous job," she said in phone interview. "When you start to handle millions of dollars and production, that probably scared them."

The movie's success should have allayed those fears—"Yentl" garnered Oscar nominations and two Golden Globes. Now, 25 years later, the 66-year-old Streisand is reminiscing about what it took to get the movie made in this week's DVD release. The two-disc set comes with special features like rehearsal scenes and Streisand's commentary.

It's not the only project Streisand is working on these days. She's finishing an upcoming CD being produced by best-selling jazz singer Diana Krall, and she regularly keeps busy with her Web site, which includes the liberal Democrat's musings on politics.

The Associated Press: What was the most challenging part of making "Yentl"?

Streisand: I think it was just getting it made, selling it in America. Because once I came to England, things were really wonderful. They had no fear of a woman being in a powerful position because they had a queen and the prime minister was Margaret Thatcher. Being a woman director there didn't seem to scare them. They were the most supportive, helpful, wonderful group of people. I'm very grateful for that. It wasn't until I came back to America it was an odd thing, directing this movie, before I started and after I finished, and that's really fascinating to me. And look how many years it's taken to even conceive of a women being president in the United States? At that time, you couldn't even conceive of a woman being president of the United States, until two years ago ... but times have changed.

AP: You were a very vocal critic of former President George W. Bush, but said he was very gracious after he gave you a kiss during the Kennedy Center Honors.

Streisand: It still doesn't change my mind about his politics, the ruination of our country. But, he was very disarming and very nice and kind of fun with it.

AP: I didn't see you at the Obama inauguration.

Streisand: I was supposed to go, I was asked to go, but I'm in the middle of this recording ... and I just couldn't go. It was the most thrilling thing to watch this man Obama, Barack Obama, become the president of United States. It's such a wonderful thing for our country and our world. He's so intelligent and so smart, and that is such a change, and such a relief.

AP: Diana Krall is producing your new album. Is she also singing on it?

Streisand: I'm trying to convince her to sing with me, but she's resisting it. She plays the piano for me on several songs, but it's not over yet. I'm still working on her to try to do a duet with me. ... We have to find the right song.

AP: When do you plan to return to film?

Streisand: I'd like to get back to directing. There's something I've been working on for many many years and it's kind of almost time to get back into my directing role and there also is possible a sequel to "Meet the Fockers."

AP: Your stepson, Josh Brolin, is an Oscar nominee this year.

Streisand: Isn't that great? It's so great for him because now win or lose, he is an Oscar-nominated actor, and it's wonderful to get the recognition of your peers.

AP: Are you going to be involved in this year's Oscars?

Streisand: Doubt it. I like to watch from home, eat pizza ... I cuddle up on my couch.

Erykah Badu blogs about giving birth to a baby girl

Badu

NEW YORK (AP)—Erykah Badu gave birth to a baby girl this weekend—and twittered about the experience.

Universal Motown Records Group, the singer's record label, says the baby was born Sunday and both mother and daughter "are doing fine." The father is Badu's boyfriend, rapper Jay Electronica.

The couple blogged about the birth on the Twitter Web site. Badu said she had a home birth that lasted about five hours and that she didn't use painkillers.

Badu, whose real name is Erica Wright, has a son and a daughter from previous relationships

She released her fourth full studio album, "New Amerykah, Part One (4th World War)," last year.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

TERESITA BLAS DIAZ

September 03, 1940 - January 31, 2009

Affectionately known as "Terry'n *Badu*"

Was called home by our heavenly Father

Predeceased by:

Parents: Pedro Santos Blas & Guadalupe Basa Blas;

Parents-in Law: Antonio Arriola Diaz & Amalia Deleon Guerrero Diaz

Brothers, Sisters, & In-laws: Caridad B. Blas, Maria B. & Vicente P. Manibusan, Soledad A. & Jesus B. Blas, Manuel S. Matagolai, Jose M. Manglona, Eugenio N. Repeki, Ana D. & Pedro B. Magofna, Antonio & Rosalia A. Diaz, Candido & Catalina S. Diaz, Jesus Dlg. Diaz, Ramon Dlg. Diaz, Nicolas Dlg. Diaz, Margarita Dlg. Diaz, Vicente Dlg. Diaz

Lovingly Survived By:

Husband: Jose Dl Guerrero Diaz

Children & Their Family:

Debra D. Teregeyo & Vicente T. Teregeyo (Joseph Rofu & Verna, Vincent Roland)
Peter B. Diaz & Mina T. Diaz (Gina, Kina, Guadalupe, Adalaida, Peter Jr., Jesus, Kathleen)
David B. Diaz /Kathy C. Tenorio (Kimberly Ann/Edwin, Kristy, Kevin/Josepha (Vanicia), Manny, Vince-ko
Davie Blas Diaz II

Accepted Children & Family: Eddie & Tina Villanueva & children
Becky C. & Glen H. M Manglona (Adeline, Ayessa (Scotty Boy), Elroy

Brothers & Sisters In-law:

Delgadina B. Matagolai, Lucia B. & Antonio T. Mendiola, Dolores B. Blas, Victorina B. & Alejandro R. Cabrera
Casilda B. Blas, Emiliana B. Manglona, Asinta B. & Augustine C. Pangelinan, Leonara A. Blas & Willy Castro
Juan Dlg. & Carmen Diaz, Isabel D. & Luis Cabrera, Maria D. & David Rios, Celina D. & Marty Taylor, Carmen D. & Charles Crites, Bernice P. Diaz, Joaquina D. Diaz

She is also Survived by numerous: Cousins, God sons & God Daughters, Nieces, nephews, and friends.

DAILY MASS IS BEING OFFERED AT 6:00 PM AT SAN ANTONIO CHURCH FOLLOWED BY THE HOLY ROSARY.

LAST RESPECTS WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, FEBUARY 7, 2009, THE BODY WILL LEAVE NUESTRA SENARA DELA PAZ AT 7:00 AM TO MOUNT CARMEL CATHEDRAL FOR VIEWING. MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL WILL BE AT 10:00 AM.

AP

PricewaterhouseCoopers employees finish the preparation and mailing of final Oscar ballots, which will voted on to determine the winners of the 81st Academy Awards, are sorted at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts offices in Beverly Hills, Calif. on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009. This year marks PricewaterhouseCoopers's 75th anniversary of counting the Oscar ballots.

Oscar nominees be warned: Surprises lay ahead

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Fans of this month's Academy Awards—and nominees themselves—are in for something new at Hollywood's biggest party, the show's overseers said Monday.

Sid Ganis, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, told the 112 contenders gathered at the annual nominees luncheon to expect a lot of new things at the Feb. 22 ceremony.

"Your categories are being presented in a completely different way. Heads up," Ganis told actors. "Cinematographers, editors, composers. All of you guys. You're in for a big surprise."

Ganis did not elaborate, in keeping with Oscar organizers' efforts to maintain secrecy about the show, including the names of awards presenters.

While academy officials kept mum, nominees had plenty to say as a mix of first-time contenders and old hands turned up at a news conference before the luncheon.

Going zero-for-five on her previous Oscar nominations, best-actress contender Kate Winslet said the experience has given her a "good losing face." Yet considering her competition this time—including Meryl Streep with a record 15 nominations—Winslet said she felt the honor and intensity even more this time.

"I get very emotional about these things, I discover. I think I'm not cut out for this. I'm too emotional to lose, and I'm too emotional to win," said Winslet, nominated for her role as a former concentration-camp guard in "The Reader."

"I sort of wish there was some lessons in how to cope with awards seasons, even though I've gone through it so many times before. It always feels like the first time."

While Winslet has become a perpetual nominee, Robert Downey Jr. has not been up for an Oscar in 16 years, since he earned a best-actor slot for the title role in "Chaplin."

Downey found irony in his supporting-actor nomination for "Tropic Thunder," in which he's cast as an obsessed actor who undergoes a medical procedure to darken his skin to play a black soldier.

"The funny thing is, I was playing an Oscar-crazed weirdo whose every motivation was somehow geared toward accolades," Downey said.

Downey is back on top in Hollywood after years of substance-abuse problems. Another Hollywood reclamation project, Mickey Rourke, has a best-actor nomination for "The Wrestler," playing a former ring star with a fresh shot at glory.

The story mirrors the real life of Rourke, who squandered his early promise with bad behavior off-screen.

"I was out of work for about 14 years," Rourke said, adding that his biggest surprise this awards season was "the fact that so many years went by and I got a second chance."

Penelope Cruz—earning her second Oscar nomination, this one for supporting actress as a volatile artist in "Vicky Cristina Barcelona"—said winning would be great, but she simply wants to cherish the whole Oscar ride.

"I am so happy to be part of a group of people that can work, that can make a living out of this profession that I've loved so much since I was a little girl, that I really don't want to obsess about winning," Cruz said.

Oscar newcomer Melissa Leo, a best-actress nominee for her role as a destitute mom who turns to crime in the border-smuggling drama "Frozen River," said she never gave a thought about competing for an Academy Award.

"I'm an actor. I think about what the next job is. I think about what my character is. I think about what my director's needs are. I don't dream about this. So it's a dream I have not yet dared to dream," Leo said. "Win, lose or draw come the 22nd, I've gotten more than I ever dreamt of."

Frank Langella, a first-time nominee with an acclaimed stage background, said his Oscar nomination as Richard Nixon in "Frost/Nixon" was a career high-point but that it would not alter his career.

"I don't really think that I'm suddenly going to turn into one of those actors who makes millions and millions of dollars and stars in films holding a gun," said Langella, who reprised the role he originated on stage alongside co-star Michael Sheen. "I'm very lucky that I can continue to work on the stage almost any time I want. I think I'll just continue along apace."

Supporting-actress contender Viola Davis summed up what it feels like to be a first-time nominee having lunch with such Oscar veterans as Winslet, Downey, Cruz and Sean Penn.

"This is probably a morbid metaphor. People say if you're in a major accident and your whole life flashes before you, and of course, it's always all the important moments," said Davis, nominated for playing a mother whose son may have been abused by a priest in "Doubt." "This would be one of the moments that would flash."

Is 'SNL' leasing its sketches to advertisers?

NEW YORK (AP)—Was "MacGruber" a "Saturday Night Live" sketch or Pepsi commercial?

Depending on when you were watching television over the weekend, it was hard to tell.

On Saturday night's "SNL," the recurring bit starring cast member Will Forte aired three times during the show, each time with comical over-the-top promotion for Pepsi.

Then on Sunday night, one of the same "MacGruber" sketches—in which Forte plays a parody of the '80s action series "MacGyver"—aired during NBC's broadcast of the Super Bowl as a commercial.

As it turns out, all were paid commercials by Pepsi, made in collaboration with producer Lorne Michaels' "Saturday Night Live." The segments weren't product placement, but commercials paid for by Pepsi and produced by "SNL." Though they appeared to be sketches on "SNL," they ran during allotted commercial breaks.

NBC Entertainment Co-Chairman Ben Silverman said Pepsi paid full freight for the spots—which sold for about $3 million per 30-second spot during the Super Bowl.

"They really made it very funny and obvious, so I don't think there was any confusion," said Silverman. "Everything is ongoing experimentation, but the reality is we need to evolve and do more and more things."

Added Silverman: "It's not just an ad for Pepsi, it's an ad for 'Saturday Night Live.'"

Branding expert Peter Arnell was in charge of PepsiCo's Super Bowl campaign, which also included a 3-D commercial for its SoBe Life Water.

"The creative space is 'SNL's' and they were commercials we would have bought, so the economics were as normal as it ever was," said Arnell. "It's the un-advertising advertising."

The first "MacGruber" sketch/commercial that ran during "SNL" came amid other commercials—after a movie trailer for "The Pink Panther 2," which is what host Steve Martin was (what else?) promoting.

PepsiCo American Beverages chief Massimo d'Amore, who watched the game from a luxury box with NBC and Michaels, declined to say how much the company paid the network for the spots. An estimated 95.4 million people watched the Pittsburgh-Arizona Super Bowl, making it second only to last year's game as the most popular ever, according to Nielsen Media Research.

"We have been working together all along in a true partnership," said d'Amore. "This is definitely not a one-off. It's a very determined step to connect with the consumers of today in a new contemporary way."

The ads include all the same usual characteristics that the sketch series normally does: its cheesy opening theme song, a frightened sidekick (played by fellow cast member Kristin Wiig) and MacGruber's inevitable distraction (in this case, a Pepsi). The real MacGyver—Richard Dean Anderson—also made a cameo.

That a marquee "SNL" sketch would be sold to a marketer might rub some loyal viewers the wrong way. Fans, after all, tune in for comedy, not for well-dressed commercials.

Silverman says the viewer only wins, since the Pepsi sketches replaced regular commercials. (He also noted that "SNL" talent was paid for the work outside of their normal salaries.)

AP

In this image provided by CareerBuilder.com, a screen shot taken from a CareerBuilder.com television ad scheduled to air during Super Bowl XLIII is shown.

"It wasn't inside the show," said Silverman. "Lorne really protected the show. I think the fans of 'Saturday Night Live' got to see a 'MacGruber' that they wouldn't have otherwise seen."

Michaels wasn't available to comment Monday.

"What we're doing is selling entertainment vehicles and marketing platforms," said Silverman, who has looked for other revenue streams for NBC as network TV ratings have slid. "This is where programming is going."

AP

This photo released by the Santa Barbara County Calif., Sheriff's department Monday, Feb. 2, 2009, shows actor Gary Collins after he was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009.

Collins arrested, suspected of DUI

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—Authorities say they arrested actor and TV host Gary Collins on suspicion of drunken driving. According to an arrest report, deputies in the coastal county of Santa Barbara pulled Collins over Saturday evening after noticing him driving a motor home erratically. The 70-year-old was arrested by the California Highway Patrol after failing a field sobriety test. He was later released on $25,000 bail.

The arrest comes roughly 13 months after Collins pleaded no contest to driving under the influence and served a four-day jail sentence in a suburb of Los Angeles. He was placed on two years of informal probation, and records show he was admonished about the dangers of drunken driving.

Records also indicate he was convicted of DUI in 2004 in Malibu. They did not indicate whether he has an attorney.

Court rejects Polanski bid to disqualify LA judges

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Roman Polanski's attorneys have lost their bid to disqualify all Los Angeles Superior Court judges from considering their request to dismiss the 31-year-old sex case against the fugitive director.

The California 2nd District Court of Appeal issued the decision Monday, and also lifted a stay on all proceedings.

Polanski's attorney, Chad Hummel, claimed the entire Los Angeles Superior Court bench is biased against the director. Prosecutors countered that the claim was frivolous.

Polanski pleaded guilty to having sex with a 13-year-old girl in Los Angeles in 1978 but fled to France before he could be sentenced.

Superior Court spokesman Allan Parachini says a new date for the hearing will be set Tuesday.

Springsteen, Phish head lineup for Bonnaroo

AP

Bruce Springsteen holds up hios guitar after performing at halftime of the NFL Super Bowl XLIII football game between the Arizona Cardinals and Pittsburgh Steelers, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009, in Tampa, Fla.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Call him Bonnaroo Bruce.

Bruce Springsteen, fresh off his Super Bowl halftime performance, has been announced as a headliner at this year's Bonnaroo Arts & Music Festival, along with the recently reunited Phish.

It is scheduled to be the only performance by Springsteen and his E Street Band at a festival in North America this year.

Other performers scheduled to perform from June 11-14 include Snoop Dogg, the Beastie Boys, Nine Inch Nails, Wilco, Elvis Costello, TV on the Radio, Al Green, Merle Haggard, David Byrne, Erykah Badu, Animal Collective, the Decemberists and Lucinda Williams.

The annual event, which is held on a 700-acre farm in Manchester, Tenn., 60 miles south of Nashville, draws about 80,000 fans each year.

Springsteen, who released the CD "Working on a Dream" last week, is making the Bonnaroo pit stop during a nationwide tour; Phish is also launching a tour later this year, and Bonnaroo is also slated to be its only festival performance in North America.

More acts will be announced later. More than 120 bands and 20 comedians are expected to perform on 13 stages.

Court blocks effort to depose Spears

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears will not have to undergo questioning in a Florida civil case filed by her former manager at least until summer.

Clay Townsend, an attorney who represents Johnny Wright, said the pop singer won't have to be deposed until August, following a closed hearing Monday. Townsend argued that Spears appears competent based on interviews and appearances. A court commissioner blocked efforts last year to depose Spears in the case, which was filed in Orlando, Fla.

Townsend claims she is the only person who can answer questions about specific periods of her music career. Attorneys for Spears' father, who has control over the singer's personal and financial affairs, declined comment.

In this Sept. 7, 2008 file photo, Britney Spears poses with her awards backstage at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles.

AP

Will Kate and Sawyer be an item again on 'Lost'?

Evangeline Lilly, who plays Kate on the "Lost" television program, is interviewed in New York, Tuesday Jan. 27, 2009.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—If you thought the tortured tropical romance between Sawyer and Kate was over, you might be surprised by a future episode of "Lost," according to Evangeline Lilly, who stars as Kate on the ABC thriller.

"There is a reunion of sorts" awaiting the pair, says Lilly. Never mind that Kate seems to have escaped that mystical island while Sawyer, the handsome rogue played by Josh Holloway, was staying put.

Lilly calls their future encounter "very laced and complicated and simple." But she's careful not to spill any further details.

"I never know what I can and can't say," she explains.

Grandmother sees too much of bodybuilding teen's work

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My 19-year-old grandson, "Fletcher," an average boy with good looks, is becoming as exhibitionist. He flaunts his body on almost every occasion. When people are around, he goes into his room and emerges minutes later without his shirt, naked to the waist, with his pants dropping down almost showing places we do not wish to see. He struts around, going from room to room, all the while his pants slipping even lower. Fletcher then usually changes into shorts, which also slide down and reveal more than the public should be viewing.

Fletcher does this whether it's hot or cold, in the house or outside. His behavior is not normal. He seems to be doing this stripping thing more and more, regardless of where he is. At our house over the holidays, he found an excuse to remove his shirt to show his abs. He's constantly exercising and working out and is always ready to pull open his shirt to show the results.

I don't know where exhibitionism at this age leads, but I'm sure the road is not a healthy trail to travel. Does all of this seem normal to you, Abby, and could you comment on it?

CONCERNED IN BUCKS COUNTY, PA.

DEAR CONCERNED: So, here we have a good-looking young man who works out like crazy and has found that building his body brings him attention and admiration. Who can blame him for wanting to show it off?

That said, there is a time and place for everything. Tell Fletcher—and his parents—that when he is in your home, you would prefer that he pull his low-riding pants up and keep his shirt on because his exposure embarrasses and concerns you. (What he does in his own house is his business.)

And while you would prefer that your grandson polish other aspects of his persona, perhaps it's time to consider that this may be the most distinct achievement he's capable of. It isn't the end of the world. It has led to more than one career in show business—and even politics.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My brother, "Curt," is a 38-year-old rookie cop. We are all proud of his decision to go to the police academy and want him to be successful. The problem is, at every family function, Curt thinks it's funny to demonstrate the tactics he uses to make noncompliant suspects submit.

These actions are unwelcome, and they really hurt. Curt has used this type of force on me, my sister and my children, ages 6 and 8. When I ask him not to do it anymore, he laughs. He thinks it's all a big joke and seems to enjoy having this power over other family members.

It is not a joke anymore. If Curt does this again, I'm afraid I will defend myself, and then all hell will break loose. What should I do?

NOT AMUSED IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR NOT AMUSED: If your brother is doing this with his siblings and their children, can you imagine what he must be doing to someone he places under arrest? Your brother is getting a kick out of inflicting pain, even if it involves young children. In other words, he's sadistic and not very bright.

Inform your brother that if it happens again you and the family will pay a visit to the chief of police in your community and file a report. It is officers like your brother who give law enforcement a bad name.

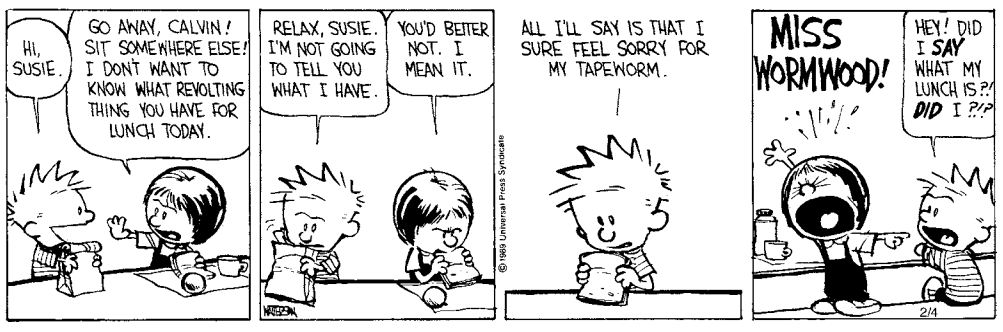
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HI, SUSIE.
GO AWAY, CALVIN! SIT SOMEWHERE ELSE! I DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT REVOLTING THING YOU HAVE FOR LUNCH TODAY.
RELAX, SUSIE. I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU WHAT I HAVE.
YOU'D BETTER NOT. I MEAN IT.
ALL I'LL SAY IS THAT I SURE FEEL SORRY FOR MY TAPEWORM.
MISS WORMWOOD!
HEY! DID I SAY WHAT MY LUNCH IS?! DID I ?!?
2/4
©1989 Universal Press Syndicate

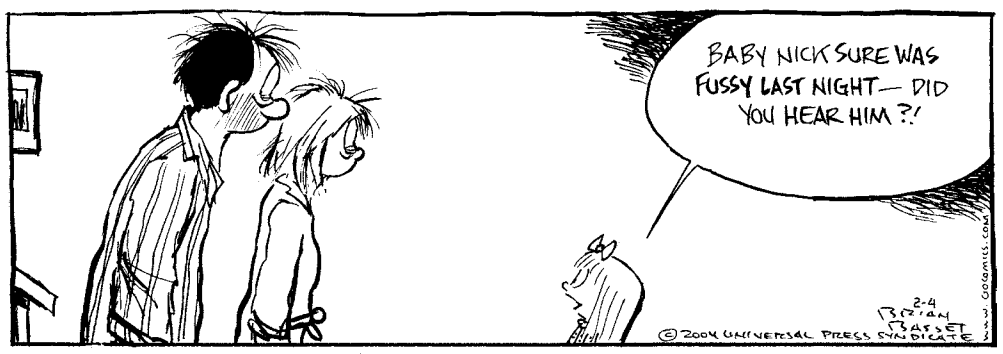
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

JIM DAVIS 2-4
I STEPPED ON GUM
© 2009 PAWS, INC. All rights reserved.
www.garfield.com
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

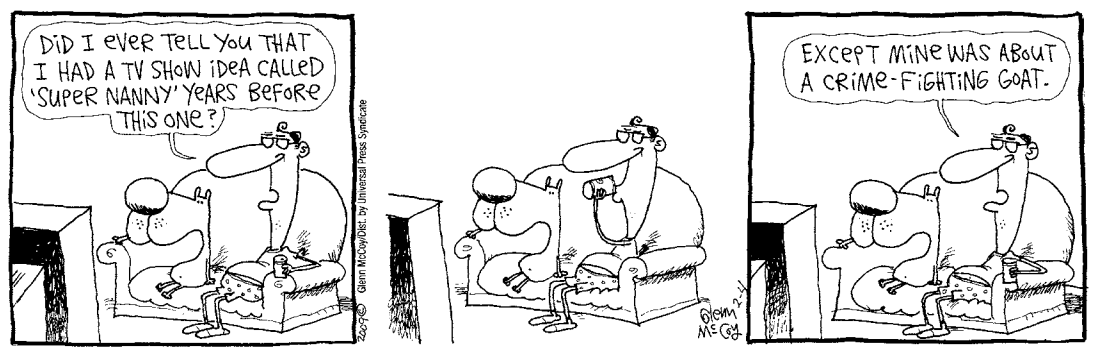
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


DID I EVER TELL YOU THAT I HAD A TV SHOW IDEA CALLED 'SUPER NANNY' YEARS BEFORE THIS ONE?
EXCEPT MINE WAS ABOUT A CRIME-FIGHTING GOAT.
Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
2-4
GLENN McCOY

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Pronto, on a memo
5 Section of L.A.?
8 Fashion
12 — fide (in bad faith)
13 Descartes' conclusion
14 Out there someplace
15 Drilling site
17 Small salamanders
18 A big-screen Batman
19 Tenant
21 Mimic
22 Riga resident
23 Bachelor's last utterance
26 Doctrine
28 Velveeta maker
31 Pompom
33 Drunkard
35 Fairy tale baddie
36 Parlor furniture
38 Fella
40 Storm center
41 Vail gear
43 Greek consonants
45 Garment with something to say?
47 Realm
51 Extended period?
52 Illegal football plays
54 Urban pall
55 Barack : Michelle :: Herbert : —
56 Bound
57 DIY buys
58 Wriggly one
59 Kenny Rogers song

DOWN
1 Out of control
2 Secure
3 — Romeo
4 Trattoria offering
5 Cub's mama
6 Scull tool
7 Olfactory stimulus
8 Baton waver
9 In the wings
10 Social engagement
11 Gaelic
16 Arizona tribe
20 "A mouse!"
23 "— Impossible"
24 Pair with an air
25 Collateral branch
27 Unruly bunch
29 Saute
30 Links prop
32 Receipts in Britain
34 Melodic
37 Round Table address
39 Vagrants
42 Pilfered
44 Drinker's mishap
45 Agenda entry
46 Big rig
48 Concept
49 Peruse
50 Catch sight of
53 Adversary

Solution time: 21 mins.

E	R	G	O	■	S	P	A	■	F	A	C	T
C	E	L	L	■	H	E	N	■	O	B	O	E
H	E	A	D	C	O	L	D	■	O	L	L	A
O	D	D	■	O	A	F	■	G	L	E	A	M
■	■	■	T	I	T	■	B	U	S	■	■	■
B	R	A	W	N	■	M	O	N	G	R	E	L
A	U	D	I	■	G	A	B	■	O	U	R	S
S	T	O	C	K	E	D	■	B	L	E	E	D
■	■	■	E	E	L	■	B	A	D	■	■	■
B	U	S	T	Y	■	F	O	R	■	L	E	I
I	N	T	O	■	T	O	O	K	H	O	L	D
E	T	A	L	■	O	U	T	■	A	P	S	E
L	O	R	D	■	W	R	Y	■	T	E	A	S

Yesterday's answer 2-4

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
18						■	19	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22				■	■
23	24	25	■	26		27	■	28			29	30
31			32	■	33		34	■	35			
36				37	■	38		39	■	40		
■	■	41			42	■	43		44	■	■	■
45	46					■	47			48	49	50
51				■	52	53						
54					55			■	56			
57				■	58			■	59			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brandon "Bug" Hall, 24; Natalie Imbruglia, 34; Oscar De La Hoya, 36; Alice Cooper, 61

Happy Birthday: Ride the wave to victory this year. Your ideas will lead to positive results and you will be trendy, outspoken and ready to take action. This is a forward-thinking, progressive year for you so be practical and rid yourself of people and situations that can only hold you back. Your numbers are 7, 16, 20, 23, 37, 38, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't let the little things bother you. Organizing or getting involved in something you believe in will help you connect with people who have common interests. An emotional relationship will warm up and bring you great joy. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll be tempted to spend on something you want but don't need. Question your motives. You may be better off explaining what you want in return before you make promises. A change in plans may influence your professional position. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll surprise everyone with your vision and plans for the future. Nothing is too much or out of your reach right now. You will find out information that will help you turn a project you are involved in into a moneymaking venture. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Winning, rebates, surrenders, settlements and legal matters will all lead to extra cash. The change in your status will enable you to make a positive, professional move. Stay away from anyone who is too pushy or controlling. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll be pulled in several different directions emotionally but, in the end, what you discover about yourself will be what counts. Don't be surprised if someone wants a partnership that can enhance your income and your position in the future. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Consider if declining an invitation is worth the cost. It's more important to finish what you start and to be responsible for the work you are expected to deliver. Falling short will cause others to lose confidence in you. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Travel, promoting and following through with the people and the projects that interest you the most should be first and foremost on your mind. A revelation you experience with friends, relatives, lovers or children will lead to a lifestyle change. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Stop taking everything and everyone so seriously. Do what you can and let the rest go. Don't fret and waste time over trivial matters. Stop judging yourself so harshly and you'll do better. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You can change your course and try new things. If something isn't working, move on. Success is within reach if you follow your heart and put your talents to work for you. You will make things happen. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You may want to rethink what you are doing in your personal life. Protect your assets and stow your cash so that you aren't hounded for something you don't want to part with. It's all in the way you handle matters. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Love and romance are in a high cycle and arrangements should be made to do something with the one you love—or to find love, if you are single. Your charm will lead to the support or help you need to make your life better. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't divulge secrets or get involved in affairs that shouldn't concern you. The one who will end up in trouble is you. Concentrate on improving your lifestyle. Big ideas need to be built on solid ground, so start small. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are practical and innovative. You have a good handle on how to go about getting what you want. You find solutions and assess situations well.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6	4					
				8				
		5	9	6	3	4		
	7			2			8	
5								3
4								5
2								6
	8			9			7	
		1	5		7	3		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	5	6	3	9	2	1	8	7
1	2	3	8	5	7	9	6	4
8	7	9	1	4	6	5	3	2
6	8	4	2	3	5	7	9	1
2	1	5	7	6	9	3	4	8
9	3	7	4	1	8	2	5	6
7	9	2	6	8	3	4	1	5
5	6	1	9	2	4	8	7	3
3	4	8	5	7	1	6	2	9

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

NANTUCKET **Solution: 9 letters**

S	C	E	K	A	P	S	N	V	E	S	P	E	R	S
I	T	O	D	O	O	P	D	H	A	R	B	O	R	G
A	H	T	C	I	P	E	O	R	S	L	I	A	O	N
S	U	O	E	S	S	K	U	M	A	I	U	F	C	I
C	M	J	A	S	Q	F	O	T	M	Z	P	E	K	W
O	M	G	E	T	U	U	R	A	A	I	Z	L	M	A
N	O	X	L	T	A	H	A	U	L	O	H	U	O	M
S	C	T	O	A	T	K	C	M	S	T	C	S	B	P
E	K	W	E	N	C	I	S	A	N	K	A	T	Y	A
T	N	C	I	G	H	I	E	O	Ⓢ	H	E	R	D	N
S	H	O	U	S	E	S	A	Ⓢ	C	S	B	N	I	O
O	P	O	R	T	T	K	Ⓐ	T	T	L	A	S	C	A
U	N	A	E	C	O	Ⓑ	S	M	I	L	K	M	K	G
N	M	A	D	A	K	E	T	U	S	O	C	S	I	C
D	O	C	E	P	A	C	E	I	M	T	N	A	R	B

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Altar, Bass, Beach, Brant, Buzzards, Cape Cod, Cisco, Coatue, Coskata, Essex, Fire, Glaciation, Harbor, Houses, Hummock, Island, Jetties, Kopko, Madaket, Massachusetts, Milk, Moby-Dick, Muskeget, Ocean, Pocomo, Point, Polpis, Popsquatchet, Port, Rock, Salt, Sankaty, Shimmo, Siasconset, Sound, Squam, Surfside, Town, Value, Vesper, Wampanoag, Wings

Yesterday's Answer: Messages

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Garden party: Kobe's 61 sets MSG record

NEW YORK (AP)—Kobe Bryant broke the current Madison Square Garden record with 61 points, and the Los Angeles Lakers looked plenty potent without Andrew Bynum in a 126-117 victory over the New York Knicks on Monday night.

Bryant teased and pleased a sold-out crowd that took turns booing him and saluting him with "MVP!" chants during an electrifying performance. He passed Michael Jordan's opponent record of 55 points at the present building, known as "Garden IV," when he hit three free throws with 3:56 remaining, then bettered Bernard King's mark of 60, set on Christmas Day 1984, with two more foul shots with 2:33 to play.

Bryant, who also finished with the highest-scoring game in the NBA this season, left to a loud ovation after the 24th 50-point game of his career. It was also his fifth 40-point game here.

Pau Gasol added 31 points and 14 rebounds in the Lakers' first game since losing Bynum, their starting center, for eight to 12 weeks with a torn medial collateral ligament in his right knee. They'll be fine without him if Bryant plays the way he did Monday, going 19-of-31 with an array of tough jumpers, powerful drives to the basket and perfect foul shooting. He also hit all 20 free throws.

Bynum was hurt Saturday at Memphis when Bryant missed a driving shot, then crashed into his leg. The center isn't expected to need surgery and said he was confident he would return in time for the playoffs.

Lamar Odom moved into the starting lineup and Gasol slid to the center spot to replace Bynum, who was carrying a tall black crutch, though he was limping along without using it. Odom had six points and 14 rebounds.

The Lakers reached the NBA finals last season despite losing Bynum for the final 46 games with an injury to his left knee, but they missed his inside presence when they were overpowered by Boston in six games.

Gasol and Odom were too big for the undersized Knicks, but the Lakers will get a truer test of where they are without Bynum when they visit the Celtics and Cleveland Cavaliers later this week.

Al Harrington scored 24 points, David Lee had 22 points and 12 rebounds, and reserve Wilson Chandler added 20 points for the Knicks, who had won three straight and six of seven, but didn't have the firepower to stay with the Western Conference leaders in the opener of their brutally tough week.

New York hosts Cleveland on Wednesday and Boston on Friday. It's the first time a team has played three straight games against opponents with .750 winning percentages after Feb. 1 since the Celtics did it in February 1995, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni said the daunting slate would give the Knicks the chance to "elevate" their game.

"These will be three great games to do that and whatever happens we'll spin it the best way we can," D'Antoni said before the game.

Odom made a free throw 14 seconds into the game to open the scoring, then Bryant and Gasol combined for the next 30 Los Angeles points. Bryant's 3-pointer with 35 seconds left gave him 18 points and the Lakers a 31-26 lead headed to the second.

AP

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant (24) reacts after a slam dunk shot in the first half of an NBA basketball game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Monday, Feb. 2, 2009.

New York was down only one before Bryant returned from a break with 7:25 left in the half and took over the game. He scored nine points in a 1:15 span to make it 49-42 and had 16 points in the second quarter, giving Los Angeles a 65-54 advantage.

He hit the 40-point mark during a 15-4 spurt midway through the third quarter that allowed the Lakers to finally shake free of their Knicks.

Trail Blazers 97, Hornets 89

At New Orleans, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 22 points, as Portland overcame a 17-point deficit—after New Orleans guard Chris Paul was injured—for its fifth straight victory.

Paul left the game late in the third quarter with a strained right groin, the first action he has missed all season. He had 12 points and 13 assists.

The Hornets led 72-55 when Paul left the game. Portland then outscored New Orleans 26-7 during the next seven minutes, with Jerryd Bayless scoring 13 of his 19 points during the decisive surge.

David West scored 25 points for the Hornets and Peja Stojakovic 18, but after Paul left the game, the Hornets were 5-of-21 from the field (24 percent) with only two assists and five turnovers.

Mavericks 105, Magic 95

At Orlando, Florida, Dirk Nowitzki had 29 points and six rebounds and Jason Terry had 23 points as Dallas beat Orlando for its third straight win.

Josh Howard and Jason Kidd added 13 apiece for the Mavericks, who held Orlando to 3-for-20 shooting from 3-point range.

Dwight Howard had 35 points and 11 rebounds, and Hedo Turkoglu scored 18 as the Magic ended their three-game winning streak. But that wasn't the worst news of the night for Orlando.

Grizzlies 113, Wizards 97

At Washington, rookie O.J. Mayo matched his career high with 33 points to lead Memphis past Washington for its first win in nearly a month.

Rudy Gay scored 23 and Marc Gasol added 22 points and 11 rebounds for Memphis, which ended a 12-game losing streak _ the team's longest since dropping 13 in a row to start the 2002-03 season. The Grizzlies had not won since beating Dallas 102-82 Jan. 4.

Antawn Jamison had 29 points and 13 rebounds and Caron Butler scored 21 for Washington, which failed to record its second two-game winning streak of the season.

Heat 119, Clippers 95

At Miami, Dwyane Wade had 32 points and nine assists, and Michael Beasley added 18 points as Miami beat the Los Angeles Clippers to snap a two-game losing skid.

Mario Chalmers scored 15 points, Udonis Haslem added 13 and Shawn Marion—in his first game back after missing five straight with a strained left groin—finished with 11 points and seven rebounds for the Heat, who improved to 15-3 when scoring more than 100 points this season.

Zach Randolph, back after missing 19 games with a sore left knee, scored 21 points for the Clippers, who've lost six straight and 20 of 22. Marcus Camby and Eric Gordon each added 12 for the Clippers, who had beaten Miami by a single point in each of their last two meetings.

Suns 129, Kings 81

At Phoenix, Jason Richardson scored 16 of his 24 points in the first quarter, and Amare Stoudemire finished with 25 points and eight rebounds as the rejuvenated Suns ended a three-game home losing skid with their most lopsided victory of the season.

Grant Hill added 14 points and seven rebounds for the Suns, Leandro Barbosa scored 11 points, Shaquille O'Neal had 10 points and nine rebounds, and Steve Nash had nine points and nine assists.

John Salmons led the Kings with 19 points, Kevin Martin scored 13, Jason Thompson 12 and Francisco Garcia 10.

Jazz 105, Bobcats 86

At Salt Lake City, Ronnie Brewer scored 14 of his 21 points in the second half and the injury-riddled Utah rallied from a sluggish start to beat Charlotte.

Mehmet Okur scored 22 despite being in foul trouble most of the night. Paul Millsap scored 14 and Ronnie Price added 12 points in place of Deron Williams, the latest Utah player to be sidelined with an injury. Williams was out with a contusion above his right knee, joining forwards Andrei Kirilenko (ankle) and Carlos Boozer (knee) on the inactive list.

Raymond Felton had 16 points and nine assists to lead the Bobcats, who lost their third straight and went 1-4 on a five-game road trip. They also had 24 turnovers, leading to 32 points for the Jazz.

Spurs 110, Warriors 105, OT

At Oakland, California, Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili each scored season highs of 32 points as San Antonio overcame a 12-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat Golden State in overtime.

Tony Parker had 23 points, Duncan added 15 rebounds for his 30th double-double and the Spurs won their fourth straight.

Stephen Jackson scored a season-high 33 points for the Warriors, who were trying to beat the Spurs at home three straight for the first time in 21 years. Monta Ellis, who left the game with a sprained ankle, added 17 points.

Bynum out 8 to 12 weeks for ligament tear

NEW YORK (AP)—Los Angeles Lakers center Andrew Bynum will miss eight to 12 weeks after tearing the medial collateral ligament in his right knee.

Bynum was hurt in the first quarter of Saturday night's win at Memphis. Kobe Bryant drove to the basket, missed the shot and crashed into Bynum's right leg. Bynum immediately grabbed his knee.

Bynum is the Lakers' third-leading scorer and second-leading rebounder, averaging 14.0 points, 8.2 rebounds and 1.9 blocks.

The 7-0, 285-pound Bynum's injury brought back bad memories of last season for the Lakers. He went down in mid-January and was expected to be sidelined 8 to 12 weeks after bruising a bone in his knee and briefly dislocating his kneecap.

Instead, he missed the final 46 games of the season, as the Lakers lost in the NBA finals. He underwent arthroscopic surgery May 21 to remove cartilage debris and smooth some rough spots on the underside of his kneecap.

"This is a team that went to the finals last year that we put on the floor, so they're confident in what they can do," coach Phil Jackson said at the Lakers' shootaround Monday afternoon, before they announced the severity of the injury. "We know we're going to miss his presence, his rebounding ability. But this is a very capable team."

The injury came as the 21-year-old seemed to be taking a major step forward in his fourth NBA season. In the five games before he was hurt, he was averaging 26.2 points, 13.8 rebounds and 3.2 blocks and shooting 65.3 percent from the field.

"It changes our team, and the rhythm that we're playing with," Bryant said at the shootaround. "Obviously we found a great rhythm there with him in the lineup, particularly the last week or so. So we're going to have to make some adjustments."

Bryant insisted the Lakers could still win a title without Bynum.

"There are teams that lost in the finals that go back and win the next year," he said. "I think having Andrew in the lineup makes us a dominant team. With him out of the lineup, we're still a great team. You put him in the mix, it takes us to another level."

Sources: Perez, Mets agree at $36 million

NEW YORK (AP)—Oliver Perez and the New York Mets reached a preliminary agreement Monday on a $36 million, three-year contract. The deal is subject to the pitcher passing a physical, two people familiar with the talks said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the agreement wasn't final. The physical is scheduled for Tuesday.

New York had offered Derek Lowe—another client of agent Scott Boras—a $36 million, three-year contract, but Lowe accepted a $60 million, four-year offer from Atlanta. In addition to Lowe, the Mets also held talks with agents for Tim Redding and Randy Wolf, and agreed with Redding on a $2.25 million, one-year deal.

With the agreement, the Mets' projected rotation includes Johan Santana, John Maine, Perez, Mike Pelfrey and either Redding, Freddy Garcia or Jon Niese. New York has not ruled out re-signing Pedro Martinez, who may pitch in the World Baseball Classic before deciding where to sign.

Perez was 10-7 with a 4.22 ERA in 34 starts last year. He struck out 180 and also walked 105 in 194 innings. His 4.87 walks per nine innings were fourth-highest in the majors behind only Barry Zito, Daisuke Matsuzaka and Ian Snell.

Perez will receive $12 million in each of the three seasons, up from the $6.5 million he made last year after winning in salary arbitration.

Fitzgerald breaks out late, Arizona comes up short

AP

Arizona Cardinals quarterback Kurt Warner reacts after a turnover near the end of the NFL Super Bowl XLIII football game against the Pittsburgh Steelers, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009, in Tampa, Fla.

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—The Arizona Cardinals were achingly close. They needed to hang on for just 2 1/2 minutes to complete a stunner of a Super Bowl comeback.

It wasn't to be. This miracle of a season would have no perfect ending.

Kurt Warner and Larry Fitzgerald, the pass-and-catch combination that was so spectacular in the playoffs, connected for two touchdowns in less than five minutes against the fierce Pittsburgh defense to give the Cardinals a 23-20 lead Sunday night.

Only 2 minutes, 37 seconds separated Arizona from an incredible Super Bowl upset, a glorious finish to a playoff run nobody had expected from this long-downtrodden franchise. But it was too much time. Santonio Holmes' tiptoe touchdown catch with 35 seconds to play spoiled everything for the Cardinals.

It was a heady ride for a franchise that won its lone championship 61 years ago as the Chicago Cardinals. The team had one postseason victory since then on a journey of ineptitude through St. Louis and on to Arizona.

Until the three-game roll to this year's Super Bowl.

But the Cardinals went home ruing the many mistakes that put them behind in the first place.

"It hurts so bad to get this close to being a champion," Fitzgerald said.

Warner completed 31 of 43 passes for 377 yards and three touchdowns with one costly interception. The 31 completions were one shy of New England quarterback Tom Brady's Super Bowl record and tied Buffalo's Jim Kelly for second.

Warner now holds the top three marks for yards passing in a Super Bowl, previously throwing for 414 yards in 2000 against Tennessee and 365 yards against New England in 2002 while with the St. Louis Rams.

He set an NFL record with 1,147 yards passing in this postseason, and his 11 touchdown passes tied the mark set by Joe Montana in 1989.

"I'm so proud of this football team. I think that's probably one of the reasons it doesn't hurt as much as it could have," Warner said, "because these guys exceeded expectations, they were so fun to play with. I can't say enough about the season that we had."

On Sunday, Fitzgerald caught six passes for 115 yards—in the fourth quarter—after just one catch for 12 yards in the first three. He finished with 30 catches for 546 yards in four postseason games, shattering Jerry Rice's NFL record of 409 yards receiving in 1988. The numbers didn't mean much to him.

"I just feel empty to be honest with you," Fitzgerald said, "kind of like all for nothing. You've just got to try to pick up the pieces and come back strong next season."

His 64-yard scoring pass from Warner gave Arizona its only lead of the game.

"I knew it wasn't over," Warner said. "I tip my hat to the Steelers. They made some tremendous plays. ... They won this game. We didn't lose it."

But when the dust settles from this crazy finish, Arizona can look back at its 11 penalties for 106 yards.

"They're hard to overcome," coach Ken Whisenhunt said. "There were a number of penalties called on us tonight, a lot of times in critical situations, and they're very difficult to overcome."

And of course that interception at the end of the first half, when the Cardinals were driving for what would have been the go-ahead touchdown.

On first-and-goal from the Steelers 1-yard line, James Harrison stepped in front of Anquan Boldin and picked off Warner's short toss, then rambled 100 yards for a touchdown that made it 17-7 Pittsburgh at halftime.

Warner said the Steelers were showing an all-out blitz, then Harrison slipped back.

"I couldn't see him around our linemen, with the pressure coming in," Warner said. "I thought I had Q for a split-second there. He jumped out there and made a play. The unfortunate thing was we couldn't get him down."

Fitzgerald couldn't quite bring the big linebacker to the ground at the Arizona goal line, and his efforts at the end couldn't make up for it.

"I'm disappointed for our team," Whisenhunt said. "This is a group of men that I'm very proud of. They played very hard in circumstances where nobody believed in them. ... We learned a lot about our team, it's just unfortunate it had to come out that way."

Warner's contract with Arizona expired when the season ended. The 37-year-old quarterback hasn't decided if he's going to stay in the game.

"I don't know if I'm going to play next year," he said. "I haven't thought about that. I'm going to enjoy what we just accomplished as a football team. I'm going to enjoy this year. I'm going to enjoy this great game that we just played in. And I'm going to take some time away from the game and then I'll make that decision."

NFL BRIEFS

Roethlisberger to Letterman: "I thought I blew it"

NEW YORK (AP)—When he threw the pass that won the Super Bowl, Ben Roethlisberger thought he'd just blown the game for the Steelers. The Pittsburgh quarterback went on the "Late Show with David Letterman" Monday night and told the host his pass to Santonio Holmes with 35 seconds to play Sunday night was his third read, and he thought a defensive back would intercept it. "I was getting ready to start running and then I saw about five guys closing on me, I knew my life was about to end," Roethlisberger told Letterman. "I saw Santonio in the corner and as soon as I let go of it, I saw the defensive back going to get it, and I thought it was intercepted. I thought the game was over. I thought I blew it. And, you know what? He made a heck of a catch, he really did." Letterman also thanked Roethlisberger for appearing on the show after a night celebrating Pittsburgh's 27-23 win over the Arizona Cardinals. "Long night—but what better way to celebrate the next day than to be here with you," Roethlisberger said. "Oh, what a guy, what a guy," Letterman said, applauding.

Pittsburgh to honor Steelers with parade

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The city of Pittsburgh will hold a victory parade for the Super Bowl champion Steelers on Tuesday. The parade will follow the traditional route for the city's St. Patrick's Day parade. It will begin at noon near Mellon Arena, continue through downtown and end at Gateway Center. The Steelers defeated the Arizona Cardinals 27-23 Sunday night to become the first NFL team to win six Super Bowls. An estimated 250,000 fans turned out for a parade in 2006 to celebrate the Steelers' Super Bowl victory over Seattle.

Steelers-Cardinals Super Bowl the second best ever

NEW YORK (AP)—An estimated 95.4 million people watched the Pittsburgh-Arizona Super Bowl, making it second only to last year's game as the most popular ever. NBC was blessed with a thrilling finish, and viewership peaked late in the fourth quarter, according to Nielsen Media Research. The 2008 game between the Giants and the Patriots had a similar come-from-behind, last-minute score for the victory. Two big markets and the novelty of a team trying to go 19-0 kicked the 2008 game to an audience of 97.4 million. The only program other than a Super Bowl to top Sunday night's game in U.S. television history was the finale of the "M-A-S-H" series in 1983.

Phelps avoids hot water with sponsors—for now

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Michael Phelps doesn't seem to be in much hot water with his sponsors despite being photographed inhaling from a marijuana pipe. From apparel company Speedo to luxury Swiss watchmaker Omega, several sponsors are standing by the 23-year-old swimming phenom—at least for now—and have accepted his public apology. Other big companies, like Visa Inc., Subway and Kellogg Co., aren't talking yet.

Experts say if Phelps doesn't stick to the straight and narrow, he could hurt his chances at future endorsements. And there's no guarantee he won't be dropped quietly once the furor dies down.

Phelps, who won a record eight gold medals at this summer's Olympics in Beijing, acknowledged "regrettable" behavior and "bad judgment" after the photo appeared Sunday in the British tabloid News of the World.

The paper said the picture was taken during a November house party while Phelps was visiting the University of South Carolina.

Phelps handled the situation well by apologizing and saying he regretted his actions, said John Sweeney, director of sports communication at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Phelps went a step further and promised "it will not happen again."

In 2004, after the Athens Games, a then-underage Phelps was arrested for drunken driving. He pleaded guilty, apologized and again said he wouldn't make the same mistake again.

Sweeney said if Phelps is caught transgressing a third time, he could stand to lose many sponsorships—and the public's trust. For now, the public and his sponsors could look past it. After all, he said, President Barack Obama has acknowledged using marijuana and he still got elected.

"My prediction would be that this will pass," he said with caution. "If it does happen again, it'll be twice the story and it will hurt him."

Swiss watchmaker Omega said Phelps' actions were a private matter and "nonissue" while Speedo called Phelps a "valued member of the Speedo team."

Sports performance beverage PureSport's maker, which tapped Phelps to be spokesman for its first national advertising campaign, also said Monday that it stands by him but it said it does not condone his behavior.

"We applaud the fact that he has taken full and immediate responsibility for his mistake and apologized to us, his fans and the public and we support him during this difficult time," said Michael Humphrey, chief executive of Human Performance Labs.

Hilton Hotels Corp., whose relationship with Phelps dates to 2007, likewise stuck with him.

"We continue to support Michael Phelps as an athlete whose numerous athletic feats outshine an act of regrettable behavior," the statement said.

But former sponsor Rosetta Stone, the foreign-language tutorial vendor, which had a one-year deal with the athlete that ended Dec. 31, did not like the news.

"We do not condone his activities and are disappointed in his recent judgment," Rosetta Stone said in a statement.

Both AT&T Inc. and PowerBar nutrition bar makers Nestle SA, two other big sponsors, quietly ended their relationships with Phelps at the end of 2008. Neither company would comment on the photo or describe the duration or value of their contracts.

Dollar Days keeps clean slate, Inchcape recovers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dollar Days prevailed in the battle of unbeaten teams in the 2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League after clobbering Docomo, 120-94, Saturday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

What was expected as a close match between two teams that won their first four games turned into a one-sided affair with Dollar Days sealing the victory as early as in the first quarter after capitalizing on the depleted lineup of Docomo.

Docomo played without leading scorer Ponce Rasa and key defenders of the team, allowing Dollar Days to control the game en route to the latter's fifth win in as many games.

Wowie Abuel was the star of Dollar Days' show in the first quarter drilling three triples and finishing with 13 points in that canto. Ivan De Vero had eight, while Kae Bernardo and Bogs Pangilinan chipped in six each, giving Dollar Days a comfortable 35-14 lead.

Dollar Days starters spent the second quarter on the bench, but second stringers Jun Pantaleon, Bon Tamayo, and Bart Demapan carried the cudgels for the team to overcome Ryan Sanciangco's 14-point explosion in that canto and maintain Dollar Days' big lead at halftime, 62-34.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Dollar Days' Bon Tamayo, right, tries to move away from the defense of Docomo's Robert Sanciangco during their game in the Navy Hill caging at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

Sanciangco continued to pile up points in the second half adding 14 more in the third period, but he had only Gilbert Miranda helping him in trying to bail Docomo out of trouble. Miranda had eight points in the third, while the rest of Docomo players on the playing court made only one basket apiece.

A well-rested Abuel returned in the third quarter and canned three more triples, while Bernardo asserted his might against Docomo's defense or the lack of it, and tallied 10. Bernardo and Demapan, who scored six more points in the third period, were dominant forces inside, as known inside defenders Mel Manibusan and James Lee were not there to push the two Dollar Days frontliners out of their comfort zone.

At the end of the third period, Dollar Days almost reached the century mark and still enjoyed a huge lead, 99-62, entering the final 10 minutes of the game.

The fourth quarter saw Dollar Days wisely wining down the clock and giving its bench more playing time, while Docomo continued to rely on Sanciangco, who alone could not lift his team to a miraculous win.

With its 26-point triumph, Dollar Days now holds the solo lead in the 12-team field, ahead by a victory over RBC Rollers (4-0). Docomo dropped to a 4-1 record for third place.

In the first game, Inchcape snapped its two-game losing skid after outclassing the San Antonio Shooters, 101-99.

Inchcape improved to a 2-3 record, while the Shooters absorbed their fourth loss in as many games.

Inchcape drew double figures from five players with big man Marlon De Dios leading his team with 21 points. Noel Puno had 13, while Amor Casabuena and Sonny Ranola made 11 apiece.

Jun Tabora paced the Shooters with 43 points.

First Game

Inchcape 101 – De Dios 21, Puno 16, Mendiola 13, Casabuena 11, Ranola 11, Tobias 9, Olivos 8, Rebuyon 8, Buenabajo 4.

Shooters 99 – J. Tabora 43, Mangali 14, D. Tabora 11, Caranto 10, Guellas 5, Galulu 4, Ancheta 4, Zapata 2, Feliciano 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-15, 52-43, 89-79, 101-99.

Second Game

Dollar Days 120 – Abuel 27, Pantaleon 18, Bernardo 17, Demapan 16, Galves 10, De Vero 9, Tamayo 8, Tangcoy 8, Pangilinan 6.

Docomo 94 – Ry. Sanciangco 50, Miranda 18, Cultura 11, Hamoy 9, Echavez 4, Ro. Sanciangco 4.

Scoring by quarters: 35-14, 62-34, 99-62, 120-94.

NATIONALS

From Page 28

much as 11 points in the fourth quarter, 87-76, capitalizing on their advantage in speed against the veteran players of the Ol'Aces.

But the Ol'Aces threatened in the final half of the fourth period behind the outside sniping of Elias Rangamar, before the Nationals preserved the win from the foul line.

Freddie Pelisamen led all scorers with 43 points, but it was not enough to give the Ol'Aces a 2-0 start. The Ol'Aces won their debut against Docomo Hoopaholics, 81-76.

CNMI Nationals 98 – Iguel 29, Cruz 25, Rabauliman 20, Tarkong 14, Tumaquip 5, Johnson 2, Moses 2, White 1.

Ol'Aces 95 – Pelisamen 43, Rangamar 18, Lizama 12, White 7, Buren 6, Renguul 5, Iginoef 4.

Scoring by quarters: 24-27, 46-49, 70-all, 98-95.

LADY

From Page 28

hosted the visiting Grace Christian Academy Eagles in the league's opening day of competitions on Jan. 22.

The Knights nearly blew a 10-2 first quarter lead as the Tsunamis outscored them 15-6 in the second and took the upper hand at halftime, 17-16.

Alina Yoon made two free throws with barely seven seconds gone by in the third quarter to increase the Tsunamis' gap, 19-16, but the Knights quickly retaliated with a 12-2 blast, 10 of them came from Lebria.

The two teams traded shots after that with Jazmine Che draining in long jumpers three times for the Knights and Alina Yoon also had three from the keyhole for the Tsunamis for a 34-27 count in favor of the Knights.

Victoria Reyes scored six in an 8-4 burst in the fourth quarter by the Tsunamis, who cut the lead by just three points, 35-38. But Lebria proved unstoppable for the Knights as she fired six of her teams' total eight points in the final quarter.

Also helping Lebria in the Knights offense were Che with six points, Chelsea Bortolo, and Carey Demapan had four each and Amy Taylor added two.

Reyes led the Tsunamis again with 16 points but her team failed to duplicate their 38-16 victory over Seventh Day Adventist on Jan. 29, and the Tsunamis are now 1-2.

Xuan Jun Lu added 10 points for the Tsunamis, while Yoon came up with five and Han Mil Oh and Lydin Johnson finished with two each.

Also on Thursday, SCS Boys won over the visiting SDA, 44-14, with Justin Poon scoring more than half of his team's total score as he finished with 24 markers.

James Ko added 12, Christian Tudela made six, and Eron Constante had four.

Tyler Palacios led SDA with nine, while Vincent Iba and Aamir Shakir scored three and two points, respectively for SDA.

Boys

SCS 44 – Justin Poon 24, James Ko 12, Eron Constante 4, Christian Tudela 6, Christopher Lam 0, Mikey Johnson 0, John Kim 0.

SDA 16 – Tyler Palacios 9, Vincent Iba 3, Aamir Shakir 2, Ammar Shakir 0, Jong Woo Kim 0, Jude Sablan 0, Joey Wish 0.

Quarterscores: 10-2, 25-6, 34-10, 44-16.

Girls

MCS 42 – Kaylani Lebria 22, Jazmine Che 6, Carey Demapan 4, Chelsea Bortolo 4, Amy Taylor 2, Skalan Yamada 0, Thomasa Naraja 0, Shaniah Alvarez 0, Vanessa Bortolo 0, Kimberley Sablan 0, Rachel Borja 0.

SCS 35 – Reyes 16, Lu 10, Yoon 5, Oh 2, Johnson 2.

Quarterscores: 10-2, 16-17, 34-27, 42-35.

MIEKO

From Page 28

of the race they feel comfortable with. If they swim, they do that, if they are bikers, they can do that or if running is something they enjoy they can do that. This is usually a great way to get exposure to this sport. Then as interest increases, we the triathlon federation, create small Enticer events. These events are very small distances that allow a beginner to try all three disciplines at very doable distances," he added.

Quinn said further discussions will be made before they come up with a new name for the organization.

"We are checking on some nonprofit corporation status stuff. So, once that is cleared, we will make an announcement," the NMITF head said.

STREAKING

From Page 28

bat. POI had a dismal .261 batting average hitting only 6-for-23 to drop to a 5-6 record.

PSS 25, CRM/DEQ 10

Public School System notched its fifth win in 13 outings after clobbering CRM/DEQ, 25-10.

PSS claimed the win after only five innings, as it scored eight runs apiece in the first and third inning and closed out with nine runs in the last two innings.

DEQ/CRM fired four runs in the first, but it scored only six runs in the last four innings dropping the team to a 5-6 slate.

Relief pitcher John Terlaje went 4-for-5 at the plate and recorded five RBIs. His lone homer at the top of the third drove in three PSS runners. Shortstop Jeff Isaac had four RBIs after going 3-for-4 at bat. He scored three runs. Outfielder Emery Fitial, starting pitcher Nizer Misayos and leftfielder Sim Iramk posted three RBIs each and combined for nine runs.

WOMEN'S
Finance 9, DCCA 7

Finance booted out DCCA in second place following the former's 9-7 triumph.

Finance improved to a 4-4 record, four wins behind the league-leading NMC (8-1). DCCA dropped to a 4-5 mark.

Leftfielder Lilian Pangelinan connected on a two-run single at the top of the seventh inning to give Finance the lead, 9-7.

Finance sealed the victory after throwing out DCCA's first three batters at the bottom of the seventh.

Leadoff batter Erica Tenorio flied out to leftfield, while Finance third baseman Emma Tenorio caught Janice Camacho's line drive. The game ended when Antonette Laniyo was beaten to first on a 6-3 putout play.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	40	9	.816	_
Philadelphia	23	23	.500	15 1/2
New York	21	26	.447	18
New Jersey	21	27	.438	18 1/2
Toronto	19	30	.388	21

Southeast Division

Orlando	36	11	.766	_
Atlanta	27	20	.574	9
Miami	26	21	.553	10
Charlotte	19	29	.396	17 1/2
Washington	10	38	.208	26 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	37	9	.804	_
Detroit	25	21	.543	12
Milwaukee	24	27	.471	15 1/2
Chicago	21	27	.438	17
Indiana	19	29	.396	19

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	33	14	.702	_
New Orleans	28	17	.622	4
Houston	29	19	.604	4 1 / 2
Dallas	28	19	.596	5
Memphis	12	35	.255	21

Northwest Division

Denver	31	16	.660	_
Portland	30	17	.638	1
Utah	27	22	.551	5
Minnesota	16	30	.348	14 1 / 2
Oklahoma City	11	37	.229	20 1 / 2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	38	9	.809	_
Phoenix	26	20	.565	11 1 / 2
Golden State	15	34	.306	24
Sacramento	11	39	.220	28 1 / 2
L.A. Clippers	10	38	.208	28 1 / 2

Yesterday's Games

Dallas 105, Orlando 95
Memphis 113, Washington 97
Miami 119, L.A. Clippers 95
L.A. Lakers 126, New York 117
Portland 97, New Orleans 89
Phoenix 129, Sacramento 81
Utah 105, Charlotte 86
San Antonio 110, Golden State 105, OT

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Wade, Mia.	46	474	325	1309	28.5
James, Clev.	45	441	310	1248	27.7
Bryant, LAL	46	445	277	1225	26.6
Nowitzki, Dall.	45	423	274	1160	25.8
Granger, Ind.	44	368	268	1120	25.5
Durant, OKC.	46	406	272	1143	24.8
Bosh, Tor.	48	383	333	1108	23.1
Jefferson, Minn.	45	431	169	1031	22.9
Roy, Port.	42	334	242	949	22.6
Paul, N.O.	44	323	274	956	21.7
Johnson, Atl.	47	374	173	1012	21.5
Harris, N.J.	42	278	310	901	21.5
Jamison, Wash.	47	379	178	994	21.1
Carter, N.J.	48	349	225	1012	21.1
Stoudemire, Phoe.	45	340	265	948	21.1
Duncan, S.A.	46	365	207	937	20.4
J. Terry, Dall.	46	352	129	933	20.3
Howard, Orl.	43	299	265	863	20.1
Butler, Wash.	44	313	210	880	20.0
Gordon, Chi.	48	333	186	958	20.0

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Nene, Den.	261	423	.617
O'Neal, Phoe.	254	431	.589
Okafor, Char.	261	448	.583
Lee, N.Y.	296	521	.568
Howard, Orl.	299	530	.564
Millsap, Utah	258	458	.563
Biedrins, G.S.	254	453	.561
Bynum, LAL	254	455	.558
Gasol, LAL	297	539	.551
Yao, Hou.	317	585	.542

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVE
Howard, Orl.	43	187	412	599	13.9
Camby, LAC	38	126	377	503	13.2
Biedrins, G.S.	47	190	369	559	11.9
Lee, N.Y.	46	142	397	539	11.7
Murphy, Ind.	43	77	414	491	11.4
Jefferson, Minn.	45	150	325	475	10.6
Okafor, Char.	47	174	322	496	10.6
Duncan, S.A.	46	123	352	475	10.3
Bosh, Tor.	48	129	336	465	9.7
Yao, Hou.	45	122	306	428	9.5

Assists

	G	TOT	AVE
Paul, N.O.	44	478	10.9
Williams, Utah	35	354	10.1
Nash, Phoe.	41	394	9.6
Calderon, Tor.	36	313	8.7
Kidd, Dall.	46	380	8.3
Rondo, Bos.	48	389	8.1
Duhon, N.Y.	46	368	8.0
B. Davis, LAC	33	259	7.8
Wade, Mia.	46	323	7.0
James, Clev.	45	314	7.0

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORE

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Men's Division

DCCA	13	0
Freedom Air	9	1
CPA	9	2
No Zone	8	3
Joeten Motors	8	3
Legislature	8	4
Beach Boys	7	3
Docomo	7	4
DLNR	6	5
P & S	5	5
POI	5	6
DEQ/CRM	5	6
PSS	5	8
CUC	3	7
Law & Order	3	8
CHC	3	8
PIC	2	7
Customs	2	8
Mayors	2	10
Hopwood	0	11

Women's Division

NMC	8	1
Finance	4	4
DCCA	4	5
CUC	3	4
CHC	1	6

2009 Marianas Coffee Trail Run

PHOTOS By
NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Winner Scott Hayden (1:06.23) dashes to the finish line while Chang Whan Jang (1:06.26) lags behind in the men's division of the half-run in last Saturday's 2009 Marianas Coffee Trail Run.

Bobbi Grizzard (3) and Faythe Wiseman walk along a bridge at the American Memorial Park, a few hundred meters away to the finish line.

Runners led by Joshua Berger come out at an intersection along Tapochao Road.

Last year's full run winner Miyachi Fujio crosses the finish line but settled for second place with a time of 1:22.46.

Marianas Coffee Trail Run winner Handa Yunosuke arrives at the finish line with a time of 1:21.12.

Mamiko Berger and her pet race side by side.

Doug Harding and his son approach the finish line.

Mieko Carey settles for second in the women's division of the full run with her time of 1:49.24.

Shown in this photo are, from left, Handa Yunosuke, Kathleen Herman, Scott Hayden, Miyachi Fujio, and Chan Whan Jang.

Guam participants Lou Klitzkie, Maria Benito, Barbara Tayama, Tara Taitano, and Angela Gaminde hold coconuts after the race.

Garden party: Kobe's 61 sets MSG record

Kobe Bryant broke the current Madison Square Garden record with 61 points, and the Los Angeles Lakers looked plenty potent without Andrew Bynum in a 126-117 victory over the New York Knicks on Monday night. **24**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Dollar Days keeps clean slate, Inchcape recovers

Dollar Days prevailed in the battle of unbeaten teams in the 2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League after clobbering Docomo, 120-94, Saturday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan. **26**

Nationals edge Ol'Aces

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Nationals' Quincy Johnson pulls up for a jumper against the Ol'Aces' Jack Lizama during their game in the Budweiser caging Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI Nationals played their first game as a team and survived the Ol'Aces, 98-95, in the 2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Nationals, who are playing in the Budweiser caging in preparation for the 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament, found a new gunner in Pete Iguel, who tallied 29 points in their three-point win.

Although Iguel top-scored for the Nationals, it was still stalwarts Jericho Cruz and Marvin Rabauliman, who delivered the crucial baskets in the stretch allowing the team to escape with a victory.

Cruz and Rabauliman were part of last year's CNMI Junior National Team and continued to train under Rufino Aguon's watch along with several players from the same team. Iguel was among the few ones joining the training sessions for the Nationals.

Cruz fired five of the Nationals' last nine points, while Rabauliman made three. One free throw each from Rabauliman, Cruz, and Jayvan Tarkong bailed the Nationals out of trouble.

Cruz finished with 25 points, while Rabauliman chipped in 20. Tarkong had 14.

The Nationals led by as

See NATIONALS on Page 26

Mieko joins NMITF board

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

XTERRA World veteran Mieko Carey was appointed member of the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation board during the group's first meeting of the season last month.

Carey is the third board member on the group, joining Fred Camacho and Rex Kosack. NMITF is headed by president Russ Quinn. Other officers are Joshua Berger, vice president; Mike Johnson, treasurer; and Lewie Tenorio, secretary.

Carey

"Mieko has been a long standing member and actively involved in most of the endurance sports held on Saipan and the region. She brings great enthusiasm to our team and we are very happy to have her on the board," Quinn said.

Besides naming Carey to the board, NMITF during its first meeting for 2009 also discussed plans about changing the name of the association.

"Our goal [in changing the name] is to take some of the stigma away from the sport of triathlon. Many people believe that a triathlon is too difficult and only "crazy" people do them. But this is untrue. There are many reasons to be involved with triathlon and other sports that promote fitness," Quinn said.

"First of all they help keep us healthy. And believe it or not, they are fun. There are several ways to get involved, a beginner may choose to be part of a team, they can choose whatever portion

See MIEKO on Page 26

Lady Knights win at Tsunamis home court

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Mt. Carmel School broke loose in the third quarter to beat host Saipan Community School, 42-35, last Friday in the girls division of the 2009 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association basketball league.

Playmaker Kaylani Lebria shot 14 of her 22 points in the last two quarters to lead the Knights to their first win of the season.

They lost their first game when they

See LADY on Page 26

Kaylani Lebria and Carey Demapan of Mt. Carmel School engage Lydin Johnson and Victoria Reyes of SCS in a tug-of-war during a loose ball play in the girls division of the 2009 COPSSA game Friday at the Tsunamis home court. MCS won this game 42-35.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Streaking DCCA eases past POI

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs kept its bid for a sweep in the men's division of the 2008 Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League alive after downing Pacific Oriental, Inc., 16-5, Monday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The win was DCCA's 13th in as many games solidifying the defending champion's claim to the top spot in the 20-team field. DCCA's is four victories ahead of second placer Freedom Air (9-1) and six wins away from a regular season sweep.

A 12-run top of fourth helped DCCA break the game wide open.

Both teams scored three runs in the first inning and the game remained in a deadlock after three innings, 3-all.

At the top of the fourth, centerfielder Julian Camacho, first baseman Joey Dela Cruz, and leftfielder James Fleming connected on one homer apiece to help DCCA pull away. Fleming's three-run homer gave DCCA its eighth run in the inning and the defending champion added four more on Jun Saralu and Ben Tagabuel's one-run doubles apiece, Peter Camacho's one-run triple, and a Jonathan Tenorio run.

DCCA never looked back from thereon shutting out POI at the bottom of the fourth and giving up only two runs in the fifth inning.

Fleming went 3-for-3 at bat and made four RBIs. Julian also had four RBIs after hitting two homers and going 2-for-4 at the plate.

DCCA had a batting average of .622 after a 23-for-37 performance at

See STREAKING on Page 26